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  Roll back prices, Department of Energy tells oil firms

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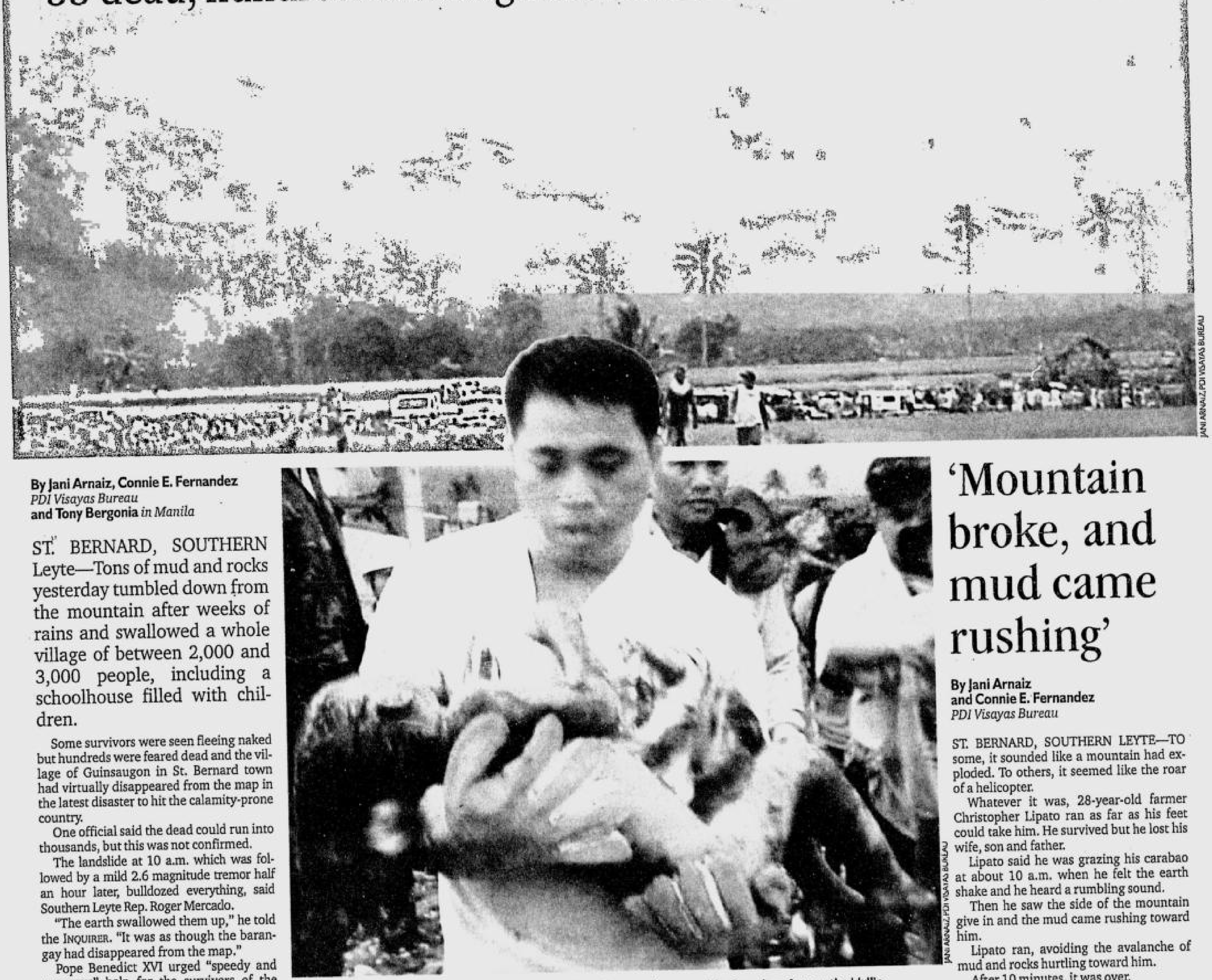
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 18, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 72 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Swallowed by the earth

33 dead, hundreds missing and feared dead in Leyte mudslides



JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

RESCUER carries a child unearthed from the mud. Top: A mountain range, Mt. Can-abag, frames the idyllic landscape of Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte, site of the tragedy on Friday morning.

By Jani Arnaiz, Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Tony Bergonia *in Manila*

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Tons of mud and rocks yesterday tumbled down from the mountain after weeks of rains and swallowed a whole village of between 2,000 and 3,000 people, including a schoolhouse filled with children.

Some survivors were seen fleeing naked but hundreds were feared dead and the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town had virtually disappeared from the map in the latest disaster to hit the calamity-prone country.

One official said the dead could run into thousands, but this was not confirmed.

The landslide at 10 a.m. which was followed by a mild 2.6 magnitude tremor half an hour later, bulldozed everything, said Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado.

"The earth swallowed them up," he told the INQUIRER. "It was as though the barangay had disappeared from the map."

Pope Benedict XVI urged "speedy and generous" help for the survivors of the landslide.

SWALLOWED/ A6

'Mountain broke, and mud came rushing'

By Jani Arnaiz
and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—TO some, it sounded like a mountain had exploded. To others, it seemed like the roar of a helicopter.

Whatever it was, 28-year-old farmer Christopher Lipato ran as far as his feet could take him. He survived but he lost his wife, son and father.

Lipato said he was grazing his carabao at about 10 a.m. when he felt the earth shake and he heard a rumbling sound.

Then he saw the side of the mountain give in and the mud came rushing toward him.

Lipato ran, avoiding the avalanche of mud and rocks hurtling toward him.

After 10 minutes, it was over.

MOUNTAIN/ A6

AFP intel details coup plot in 'Oplan Hackle'

THE COUP PLOT UNCOVERED by the Armed Forces was set in motion by the Magdalo mutineers in the middle of January, and was to involve so-called "sister acts" ultimately aimed at the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to a briefing paper on "Oplan Hackle" (not "Heckle," as earlier reported), the plot included the mass escape of the mutineers from detention on Jan. 20 or 21, and the "must do" rescue of mutiny leader Lt. Antonio (code-named Allan) Trillanes from his cell in the compound of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

The paper, which was shown to the INQUIRER yesterday by an Isafp officer, also detailed "simultaneous strikes" to be pulled off during the alumni homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy today in Baguio City, or its gradu-

AFP INTEL/ A4

Mike D told: To release Erap against law

By Nelson F. Flores, Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR YESTERDAY ACcused Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor of breaking the law for brokering the temporary release of former President Joseph Estrada on recognizance, saying the plan had no legal basis.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said that government officials like Defensor "should promote and not break the rule of law."

Villa-Ignacio said that Malacañang should not interfere on issues concerning legal matters.

"Any deal that Mr. Defensor or Malacañang would enter into would only question the in-

MIKE D/ A6

Rajo Laurel gown goes to the Oscars

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN FILM PRODUCER PIA CLEMENTE, the first Filipino-American woman to receive an Oscar nomination, walks on the Oscar's red carpet next month, she will be wearing a Filipino-designed gown.

Clemente, as well as writer-director Rob Pearlstein, have been nominated in the Best Short Film, Live Action category for their work on "Our Time is Up," a comedy featuring Kevin Pollack.

Clemente has chosen local designer Rajo Laurel and a Los Angeles-based Filipino-American David Tupaz, to design the gown she will wear at the Academy Awards.

The Oscar's red carpet has become the

RAJO/ A4

Jaworski links mayor to Pasig shabu mart

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A CERTAIN "PACMAN" HAS BEEN collecting from the recently dismantled "shabu supermarket" in Pasig City on behalf of the mayor's office, Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. said yesterday, quoting intelligence reports.

Jaworski added, however, that his informants were still looking into the matter and gathering evidence.

Quoting information from the police's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, Jaworski said the drug den earned about P12 million a day.

"There is a name coming out who collects for the mayor's office and his nickname is said to be Pacman. We're looking into that. That's not Manny Pacquiao," the lawmaker told the Ambassador Hotel forum, referring to the boxing icon who is also known as Pacman.

JAWORSKI/ A4

IBANG KLASE ANG BATTERY NYA!

She keeps going and going; they keep huffing, puffing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LIKE THE ENERGIZER BUNNY, SHE KEEPS GOING and going and going ... leaving Cabinet officials huffing and puffing to keep up with her work pace.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to slow

SHE KEEPS/ A4

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: N. and E. Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. E. Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Frequent rains over SE Visayas and E. Mindanao may cause flashfloods and landslides. The rest will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rains.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/18/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Roll back prices, oil firms told

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT IS ASKING FOR A series of price rollbacks for gasoline and diesel from the oil companies, pointing out that their margins for gasoline have risen 92 percent and for diesel by 145 percent since May 2005.

Using the May 2005 pump prices as a basis, Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said the domestic oil firms' gross margins for gasoline had increased dramatically, from P3.79 a liter in May 2005 to P7.28 a liter this month.

Diesel gross margins shot to P5.80 a liter this month, from only P2.38 a liter in May 2005, he said.

Series of rollbacks

The amounts of the price rollbacks would depend on the oil companies' "defense of my numbers," he said.

But Abaya stressed it has to be a series of rollbacks.

Oil company executives contacted by the INQUIRER declined to comment.

Asked why he was using May 2005 pump prices as his basis for comparison, Abaya said the oil firms seemed to be comfortable enough with their margins then as they were even able to implement three price rollbacks.

Abaya's computation

"We just want them to explain that analysis," he said.

Margins, in Abaya's computation, refer to expenses other than the actual product cost and taxes.

He explained that in May 2005, the product cost for gasoline was placed at P19.99 a liter, taxes at P5.19 a liter and gross margins at P3.79 a liter, for a pump price of P3.79 a liter.

By November 2005, when the 10-percent value-added tax was first imposed on petroleum products, the gasoline pump price averaged P38.33 a liter, with product cost already higher at P21.85 a liter and taxes also higher because of VAT at P8.43 a liter. Gross margins, however, also went up to a high P8.05 a liter.

This month, when the VAT rate was increased to 12 percent, the pump price averaged P38.24 a liter, with product cost still at P21.85 a liter, but taxes now at P9.11 a liter. Gross margins, although lower, were still almost double the May margins at P7.28 a liter.

For diesel, the May 2005 pump price averaged P27.37 a liter. Product cost then was placed at P22.72 a liter, taxes at P2.27 a liter, and gross margins at P2.38 a liter.

By the time the 10-percent VAT was implemented in November, the diesel pump price had increased to an average of P33.17 a liter, with product cost soaring to P23.22 a liter, taxes to P3.65 a liter and gross margins to P6.30 a liter.

This month, the diesel pump price averaged P33.24 a liter, with product cost now at P23.67 a liter, taxes at P4.27 a liter, and gross margins at P5.80 a liter.

Abaya pointed out that in the span of only nine months, gross margins for gasoline had increased by 92 percent and diesel margins by 145 percent.

"I just want them to explain their margins. Look at the difference between May and today. For sure, a series of rollbacks is in order," he said.

"They say they still have certain amounts to recover? They've already recovered everything some time ago," he said.

Since the start of the year, the oil companies have increased gasoline and diesel prices three times by a total of P1.50 a liter.

According to Department of Energy data, premium unleaded gasoline now sells from between P37.62 and P38.95 a liter, and diesel between P31.33 and P33.75 a liter.

LYN RILLON

'ATE GLO AND ATE VI'
Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto shows President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a portion of the Sto. Torribio exit, one of the four ramps under construction in Lipa City, Batangas that will lead to the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star Highway).

Senate-House Cha-cha fight escalates

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

THE ROW BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE Senate over Charter change escalated yesterday with congressional leaders accusing allies of Senate President Franklin Drilon in the Liberal Party of trying to unduly alarm the public by resurrecting the specter of 'No elections' in 2007.

Speaker Jose de Venecia is spearheading a campaign to amend the Charter even without the Senate's participation and is personally soliciting the 195 signatures needed to convene a constituent assembly.

The number represents three-fourths of all the members of both houses of Congress, but the largely anti-Cha-cha Senate insists the House can't do it alone because the two houses should vote separately on the planned shift to a parliamentary system.

But de Venecia's initiative drew flak from the head of the advocacy commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to promote Charter change.

"That is a nearly desperate move by Congress not to involve the Senate. Obviously, it stems from their frustration over Senate's recalcitrance," Lito Monico Lorenzana, chair of the advocacy commission, said in an interview.

Lorenzana, a former member of the defunct Consultative Commission (Con-Com), said that De Venecia's initiative could be legally challenged before the Supreme Court.

The latest count put the number of House members endorsing Cha-cha at 120, according to the Speaker.

On Thursday, LP Reps. Nereus Acosta, Manuel Mamba, Henedina Abad, Joseph Abaya and Herminigildo Mandanas–who are allied with the LP faction of Drilon–claimed that No-el was surreptitiously inserted in the revised draft.

Two senior vice chairs of the House committee on constitutional amendments claimed that the five LP lawmakers were engaging in a "disinformation campaign."

Rep. Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique) and Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) said the LP solons are reviving the issue to unduly alarm the public as part of their campaign against Cha-cha.

The Con-Com, chaired by former UP president Dr. Jose Abueva, had recommended the scrapping of the 2007 elections preparatory to a shift to a parliamentary government in 2010.

Comelec to hold special polls for vacant House seats

By Jerome Aning and Michael Lim Ubac

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS WILL hold special elections for the seats vacated by two members of the House of Representatives who were recently appointed to the Cabinet.

But the special elections can be called only only after the House of Representatives certifies that there are permanent vacancies in these districts, according to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week appointed Rep. Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo City as Interior secretary and Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. of Camarines Sur as Budget secretary.

The two legislators, however, have to be confirmed first by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Puno has said he would remain a congressman until he is confirmed.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay yesterday questioned Andaya's immediate assumption of the budget portfolio, saying it violated the Constitution.

Pichay, who heads the House contingent in the CA, said Andaya was only a nominee until his appointment is confirmed by the commission.

"When Congress is in session, the President can only nominate but she can't appoint anyone to fill up vacant seats in her Cabinet without the concurrence of the CA," he said.

Andaya did not respond to calls from the INQUIRER.

Pichay said Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, whose appointment preceded Abaya's and Puno's by at least a week, was also technically only a nominee.

Pichay explained that Andaya's nomination was not in the nature of an ad interim appointment which has the "force and effect of a regular appointment" because the President has the power to make such appointments only during a congressional recess.

Since Congress will not take a break until April, Andaya should continue discharging his functions as a congressman, said Pichay.

He commended Puno for "doing the right thing."

"He's assuming that he's only a nominee. He's well-advised. His statement that he can only assume when confirmed is valid," Pichay said.

Abalos said Comelec personnel in Antipolo and Camarines Sur were ready to hold the special elections, but the House has to appropriate the funds for the democratic exercise.

Under RA No. 7166, or the Synchronized National and Local Elections Act of 1991, the Comelec may call for a special election for a permanent vacancy occurring in House at least one year before the expiration of the term.

In May 2004, Comelec also held a special election in Cebu's fifth district to fill up the House seat left vacant when Rep. Joseph Ace Durano was named Tourism secretary.

Irate passenger sues airport security screener who destroyed his nail cutter

By Nikko Dizon

A SECURITY SCREENER WHO WENT TOO FAR in implementing security measures at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is now the subject of a complaint from an irate passenger.

Passenger Manuel Abordo said the screener from the Airport Police Department, later identified as Benjamin Ventinvingco, took a nail cutter from his hand luggage and broke it, showing no compunction about destroying his property.

Abordo, who said the object had sentimental value as he had inherited it from his mother, was so incensed he filed a formal complaint with the Manila International Airport Authority.

A copy of the letter-complaint, addressed to Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi, was obtained by the INQUIRER.

An airport source said Abordo, described as being in his late 60s, and his wife were booked in the first-class section of a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles last Feb. 14.

In his Feb. 15 letter to Cusi, Abordo said Ventinvingco, who was manning the security check at the Centennial Terminal, saw the nail cutter in his carry-on luggage, took it and "broke it without warning."

He said Ventinvingco did not "even have the decency of informing me that the item [was] a security risk item."

"I got irked and was really angry because in my years of traveling, I have never experienced nor encountered such treatment, a gross disregard not only for the value of property but my right as a person as well," Abordo said.

He said it was not the price of the nail cutter that mattered "but the value of it because I inherited it from my mother."

Abordo said that when he asked Ventinvingco why he broke the nail cutter, the latter arrogantly replied, "*Dapat nga i-confiscate ko ito*" (I should be confiscating this).

Abordo said he would have preferred for the item to have been confiscated and turned over to the PAL office where he could have asked his daughter to claim it.

He said such behavior from airport security personnel tended to create a "bad image not only for the airline but for the whole airport handling [service] as well."

The source said Miaa airport security officials would be conducting an investigation into the incident.

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NBI reviews Ultra stampede videos, Revillame statements

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF investigation has begun reviewing videos of the "Wowowee" television program during the days preceding the Feb. 4 stampede at the Philsports Arena to determine host Willie Revillame's culpability- in the deaths of the 71 who perished in the tragedy.

"We want to find out what the host said during the program that prompted thousands to flock to the Philsports Arena days before the actual stampede," said Rosauro Bautista, the executive officer for the National Capital Region.

Bautista said the video discs of the program were obtained from a private monitoring agency.

"Although ABS-CBN personnel were very cooperative with us, the monitoring agency was able to provide us with the video discs first," Bautista said.

He said investigators would be able to determine through the video clips what promises Revillame made to the Wowowee audience that convinced them to troop to the Philsports Arena.

"These people would not go there without any rewards or benefits waiting for them," Bautista said.

The NBI official said that one Wowowee episode showed Revillame urging the audience to proceed to the Philsports Arena for the show's first anniversary on Feb. 4.

"Revillame said that entrance to the venue would be on a first come, first serve basis," Bautista added.

In the Jan. 31 episode, Revillame is said to have told the audience that those who would go to the Philsports Arena would be given a raffle ticket and a chance to win an instant P20,000.

Aside from the P1 million prize for the winner and home partner, house and lot packages, taxicabs and jeepneys also awaited lucky contestants, according to Bautista.

"Revillame said the event would be the first and the biggest ever in Philippine television history," the NBI official said.

Bautista also said Revillame would also be asked to clarify the statements he made during the television program, including a report that he had visited the venue a few days before the show's anniversary to survey the crowd.

"This particular report indicates that Revillame had already seen how big the crowd was prior to the stampede," he said.

Ruel Lasala, the NCR regional director, said three more bureau divisions are being asked to help in taking the statements of more than 600 stampede victims.

The NBI expected to get the injured victims' complete medical records from the Rizal Medical Center and Quirino Memorial Medical Center before the end of the week, he said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

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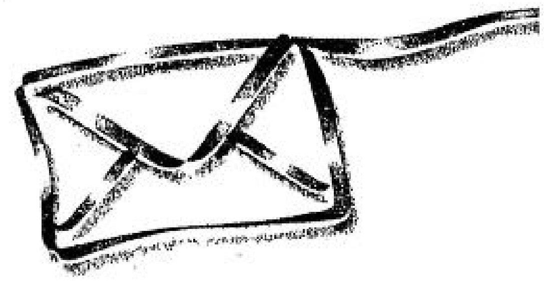

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Sa kanyang layunin na maiahon ang kanyang pamilya sa kahirapan, malayo ang narating ni Mang Joseph. Sa sampung taon ng pagpapasada ng jeep sa West – Delta - Panay Avenue mula 6:00 ng umaga hanggang 10:00 ng gabi, napagtapos niya sa kolehiyo ang kanyang apat na anak.

Isang simbolo si Mang Joseph ng pag-asa sa gitna ng kahirapan. Layunin ng Shell na tulad niya, malayo ang marating n'yo.

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Oplan Hackle: Bishop heckles Palace anew

IF TALK OF YET ANOTHER COUP plot materializes in the coming days, Malacañang will have only itself to blame, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said yesterday.

A vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Cruz said the administration was courting disaster by "toying with the exasperation of the intelligentsia and ordinary citizens."

He said the government had left dismayed citizens with practically no space to ventilate their grievances because public institutions had been damaged by "political intrigues and intrusions."

"If any national upheaval eventually comes, the administration is simply asking for it," Cruz said in a statement. "To allege that it is but a purely political move is delusion. To claim that it is simply an ideological plot is futile."

Apparently referring to the police and military, Cruz warned that people "formally committed to defend" Malacañang might turn against it in case of such an upheaval.

There's a limit

"There is a limit to how many lies can be said, what big cheating can be made, how much stealing can be done," he said.

Cruz criticized Malacañang for trumpeting the country's supposed economic gains while "more and more people become hungry."

"It loudly boasts of a rosy vision for the nation, yet more and more Filipinos leave the country for a better living abroad," he said, adding:

"There is either no work available here and now, or the available work is not worth taking." *Christian V. Esguerra*

Jaworski links mayor . . .

From page A1

Jaworski refused to give details on the alleged collector, saying he wanted to wait for the results of the police investigation of the drug operation before making any more disclosures. He only said Pacman was close to the office of Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

"That's political posturing. He (Jaworski) wants to advance himself at our expense," city legal officer Carlos Abesamis said when the INQUIRER asked the mayor's office for comment.

Jaworski called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the Department of Interior and Local Government to suspend Eusebio so that the latter would be prevented from destroying any more evidence concerning the drug operation.

He announced plans to file a case against Eusebio at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Jaworski also said it was a "lame excuse" for Pasig authorities to say they had no knowledge of the drug den.

"Either they're very ignorant or they're part of it," he said.

The lawmaker took the opportunity to take a swipe at the mayor for saying that with his wealth, he did not need drug money.

According to Jaworski, wealth is no guarantee of a person's good character: "Just because you're rich doesn't mean you're decent. It doesn't mean you don't steal. It doesn't mean you don't sell drugs."

The raid last week on Sitio Mapayapa Compound in Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig, uncovered a drug haven where users could order drugs and rent drug paraphernalia in shanties serving as "shabu restaurants."

The compound is half a kilometer away from Pasig City Hall.

Eusebio has denied involvement in the drug operation, saying that with his wealth, he had no need for such activities.

Early this week, he shocked both the police and the public when he had the shanties demolished, thereby destroying crucial evidence.

Blame-tossing

Finger-pointing has started among police officers who were relieved of their posts following the raid on Mapayapa.

The relieved officers—26 from the Eastern Police District and the Pasig police force, including police chief Senior Supt. Raul Medina—are now the subjects of an internal investigation.

In their sworn statements, some police officers declared they had monitored the drug den and had reported this to their superiors—something that their superiors denied.

Mayor Eusebio had blamed the Pasig police for failing to monitor the drug den reportedly operating for more than a year now.

He also scolded barangay chair Jesus Viray, who quickly declared he had been reporting the drug operation in his area to the local police.

But in their statements, officials of the Police Community Precinct 20, which had jurisdiction over the area, told investigators they received no such information from the barangay officials.

The precinct commander also told investigators he had reported the existence of the compound to the police chief during command conferences.

The district anti-illegal drugs team also told investigators that they had monitored the drug operation, but that they had a difficult time getting authorities to order the raid.

City legal officer Abesamis said the city government was willing to face the charges "in the proper forum."

But the EPD director, Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, has taken a two-week vacation leave starting the other day and was not answering phone calls.

Eusebio's public information officer, Oliver Mendoza, resigned yesterday.

Mendoza refused to say why he quit, but there were rumors that Eusebio had hired the services of a public relations team.

But the mayor denied this.

Eusebio's case

The DILG will look into allegations that Eusebio caused the destruction of vital evidence in the PNP anti-drug task force's case against the maintainers of the drug den, acting Interior Secretary Wencelito Andanar told the INQUIRER.

"If indeed the case versus the drug den operators was compromised by Mayor Eusebio's actions, we have no choice but to apply the appropriate administrative sanctions and pursue criminal action against those found liable," he said.

Andanar said all sides in the controversy would be heard and Eusebio's explanation of his decision to demolish the shanties would be considered.

Andanar was appointed acting secretary by the President because the secretary-designate, Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

"Under our law, one should not destroy evidence. In this particular case—the Pasig drug den—our lawyers are looking into the liability of Pasig," said Chief Insp. Eduardo Quiocho.

"We have been receiving reports regarding [the involvement of some politicians] but we are still verifying them," Quiocho said at the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk news forum.

The 13 minors—including a pregnant 16-year-old—who were among the 300 people rounded up in the raid on Mapayapa are undergoing rehabilitation after testing positive for prohibited drugs, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said yesterday at a press conference.

Cabral said the Department of Social Welfare and Development had referred the minors to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center for treatment.

She said Crisis Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) had also been administered to nine women likewise found positive for dangerous drugs. (CISD is a psychosocial intervention provided to primary and secondary victims of traumatic incidents.) *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

AFP intel details coup plot in 'Oplan Hackle'

From page A1

ation rites in March.

This phase of the plot is code-named "Sister Act 1," the paper said. The targets supposedly include the PMA in Baguio, key areas in Metro Manila, and the Southern Command in Mindanao.

But Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the Army, told the INQUIRER by phone that the document on Oplan Hackle was a "very raw" intelligence report.

"I don't know exactly [what Oplan Hackle is] ... There's nothing definite about the coup [plot] or assassination [plot]. I think it's just psywar propaganda," he said, adding:

"[The document] mentioned destabilization, which can be many things. But no assassination plot was mentioned."

'It's just reports'

Esperon said "no one from the active service" was involved, supposedly only "retired [military officers] and politicians, and maybe Leftist groups."

He downplayed the reported ongoing recruitment for soldiers to join the coup plot: "It's not so alarming. It's just reports."

The paper, however, identified less than a dozen military units, including infantry battalions or divisions, to which enlisted men joining the plot supposedly belong.

In all, the paper said, 200 officers and enlisted men—or about the same number of soldiers who took part in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny—were backing the supposed plot.

But the plot was found out, and the soldiers involved had been "confronted by [their] respective commanders," the document said.

"The group is expected to modify its plans," it said.

The discovery of the plot forced four Magdalo members—Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1st Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Bumidang—to move earlier and escape on Jan. 17, according to the Isafp officer who showed the document to the INQUIRER.

Confirmation

Esperon's statements conflicted with those made yesterday by AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison.

In an interview at the PMA headquarters in Baguio, Kison confirmed that Oplan Hackle involved the recruitment of troops, the escape of all detained Oakwood mutiny leaders, and a plan "to assassinate selected targets [that] include some Cabinet members and even the President."

"And they will do that according to the plan during the PMA homecoming [on Feb. 18] or the PMA graduation in March. So PMA authorities prepared elaborate security measures to prevent this from happening," he said.

Kison said the Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies were now gathering evidence to file charges against the recruiters.

"[Our intelligence units] have pinpointed them. [But] as I've always told you before, knowing and proving are two different things. We know who they are, but we cannot prove [they are involved in recruiting] yet..." he said.

Like Esperon, however, Kison described the recruiters as "politicians, leftists, rightists ... because they have one common goal."

'Sister Act 2'

The document said "Sister Act 2" was set between Feb. 23 and 27.

"The action is a sequel of Sister Act 1 and believed to include the closure of democratic institutions, such as Congress and the Senate," it said.

In the days following the planned escape of the Magdalo soldiers on Jan. 20 or 21, the group was to have engaged in "propaganda activities." By the end of January, the group was to have begun "Script 1, believed to be the start of mobilization of participants and specialized units," the paper said.

It said "Script 2"—which included, according to police and military analysts, the enhancement of logistical capability—was set during the first two weeks of February.

The next days were to be used to prepare for the "main event," which would include "simultaneous strikes" on targets between Feb. 18 and 22, according to the paper.

The paper named more than 10 junior officers—including members of the Magdalo group—as possible leaders of the plot.

Handful of officers

Esperon said the military was trying to identify those behind the latest plot.

But Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said the AFP had the names of "a handful of young officers" allegedly recruiting other members of the military for a "disturbance."

Cruz said the young officers were sympathizers of the Magdalo mutineers. But he refused to name names.

"There are some names that the AFP has, but [the national security group in the Cabinet is] still doing continuous checking and investigation, and gathering evidence," Cruz said in an interview at the Pagasa Science Garden, where he joined a press briefing on disaster preparedness.

"If we gather sufficient evidence that will stand in court, then the government should file cases," he said.

Cruz said the AFP had uncovered the plot and had taken steps to block it, starting with the recent arrest of Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, a member of the Magdalo group who managed to escape in December.

Heightened alert

He said the recruiters had so far been unsuccessful in dividing the military.

He declared that the AFP continued to be fully behind the duly constituted authority and did not need to conduct a loyalty check among its leaders.

In Baguio, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao put the PNP on heightened alert and ordered additional forces to secure the PMA alumni homecoming.

Baguio police tightened checkpoints around three routes to the summer capital, and distributed large "Wanted" posters featuring five Magdalo fugitives. The word "Captured" is scrawled over the picture of Faeldon.

"It is just prudent for us to put some forces on alert ... This is a nationwide heightened alert, meaning we are on our toes ... for any possible problem," Lomibao told reporters on Thursday.

"But these are rumors, speculations. I believe the alumni will think of the higher interest. I think consultations and meetings have been done ... between and among PMA classes to remedy the situation... We don't want the homecoming to turn into a political activity," he said.

Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, told the INQUIRER that attempts had been made to recruit the academy's military police unit.

But he played down concerns that today's homecoming would be the staging ground for a coup plot. He said the PMA was "prepared."

On the other hand, PMA sources said reports on the plot to disrupt the homecoming were "just planted."

Even in Metro Manila

PNP Director Vidal Querol said Metro Manila police had also been put on heightened alert.

But he said this was primarily meant to check crime and to prepare for the rallies during the forthcoming Edsa I celebration. *(See box on this page.)*

"The alert will also cover [Oplan] Hackle," Querol said, adding that putting cops on the streets and checkpoints in strategic areas could serve "as deterrent to any crime or any plot whatsoever."

"There was a carjacking in Parañaque and a robbery on Commonwealth Avenue [in Quezon City]," said Querol. "People will also converge for the Edsa celebrations, and ... there should be some order there."

Querol upgraded the alert level starting at 6 a.m. yesterday and ordered ground troops to "conduct checkpoints, both fixed and mobile, and [deploy] motorcycle mounted patrols." *With reports from Blanche S. Rivera in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Protest actions to mark Edsa I

RALLIES ARE SCHEDULED STARTING next week to mark the Edsa I commemoration.

The Quezon City government has issued permits for mass organizers to hold programs starting on Feb. 22, according to PNP Director Vidal Querol.

Said Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan: "In the coming weeks, we will see a resurgent protest movement. We're going back to the streets. Not even Ms Arroyo's optimistic and misleading economic forecasts can stop the growing public disgust over the regime."

Bayan and the Gloria Step Down Movement are expected to rally some 25,000 people at the People Power Monument before proceeding to the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Laban ng Masa, another anti-Arroyo alliance, is set to hold a nationwide Pilgrimage for Truth and Reforms involving around 10,000 people.

Rajo Laurel gown goes to the Oscars

From page A1

biggest fashion show on earth. Presenters and nominees to the Oscars have access to the world's best designers, jewelry and a team of makeup artists and stylists—usually for free—because of the enormous publicity the event generates.

"The winner is Filipino fashion," Clemente told the INQUIRER.

She will pick her Oscar gown from the creations of Laurel and Tupaz. *(See sketches in Sunday Lifestyle, Page C2.)* The two talents, who are friends, set aside competition to collaborate on two gowns. Both are said to be excited about the chance to work together.

Laurel, known as the "Wonder Boy of Philippine Fashion," likes to mix fabrics to reflect the diversity of the Filipino culture. He is a favorite among the celebrity set, with regular clients Sharon Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Bianca Araneta.

Tupaz has designed for such actresses as Cheryl Ladd, Kelly LeBrock, Mariel Hemingway and Christine Baranski. He designed the gown that Japanese filmmaker Keiko Ibi wore when she won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject in 1999.

Outfit me

Clemente, who will attend the ceremony at the Kodak Theater on March 5, earlier shared with the INQUIRER her interest in commissioning a Filipino designer to outfit her.

"Are there any Filipino designers out there who would be interested in outfitting me?" was Clemente's response when the INQUIRER asked her whose creation she would be wearing to the awards show.

Laurel responded to Clemente's announcement through a letter sent on Feb. 9 by his sister, Venisse Laurel-Hermano, also general manager of House of Laurel.

Hermano wrote: "It would be a great, great honor for us to provide your gown for this event. We agree with you that the Filipino heritage is one to be proud of and we would like to be your partner in promoting Filipino talent internationally."

But not black

In an e-mail she sent to Laurel, Clemente said she wanted an outfit that is "simple, but a creative cut" that would accentuate her "shoulders and/or neckline."

The five-foot-one producer wanted a gown that was "classy-looking but at the same time, sexy and comfortable," that would make her "look long," despite her "petite" frame.

She added that she did not wish to be "hidden under pattern or much fabric" and preferred an outfit in hues of "blues, reds, purples, or rose."

Hermano sent images of Laurel's sketches, which she said were "inspired by the different ethnic regions of the Philippines but with a more modern touch."

In his letter dated Feb. 14, Laurel presented two kinds of fabric to Clemente. "Silk jersey is my signature fabric," he wrote. "It has the fluidity that I love. The beaded silk chiffon is heavier, thus, making it fall beautifully."

Laurel also suggested "nude, bronze and gold colors," and as far as the design is concerned, "I will be working on the V-neckline gown."

Laurel is scheduled to fly to Los Angeles on Feb. 27 to meet with Clemente.

Bulacan to New York

Clemente was only 3 years old when she and her family moved from Bulacan to New Jersey, USA.

Clemente studied in Barnard College, an independent college of liberal arts and sciences for women and affiliated with Columbia University, New York City.

It was as a student at Barnard that she produced "Christmas in New York," which won the 1977 Oscar for Dramatic Student Film.

In 2001, she line-produced the independent Filipino-American film feature, "The Debut," featuring Eddie Garcia, Tirso Cruz, Gina Alajar and Fil-Am actor Dante Basco.

"Our Time Is Up" is a film about a therapist (Pollack) who learns that he has six weeks to live and adopts a fresh approach to his method of treatment—brutal honesty. *With a report from Ruben Nepales*

She keeps going . . .

From page A1

down, so Cabinet secretaries can catch up with her, as well as catch their breath.

Defensor said he talked to the President last week and told her to relax and ease up on her 19- to 22-hour daily grind, not only because of concerns about her physical well-being, but also because of the health of her Cabinet secretaries.

Grueling work habits

"I am a witness to her grueling work habits—she wakes up every day at 6 a.m. and goes to sleep at 1 or 3 a.m. If she continues with this relentless pace, her health will suffer," he said.

Defensor, who at 36 is the youngest Cabinet member, said that while his body could still keep up with the President's punishing work schedule, "I must admit that I, too, get tired sometimes."

Security was another reason why the President should ease up on her schedule, Defensor said. With lingering threats of destabilization, the President must be more cautious and give her security people a longer lead time to prepare an area she would visit.

Defensor said a hardworking President had its advantages, but there was a downside, especially if some of the Cabinet secretaries might not be able to sustain a feverish work pace.

"Our productivity suffers because we can't work at our peak all the time," he said.

Except for Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Defensor noted that the past "little presidents" had not been able to stay long in their position because the President turned out to be a "dynamo."

"Former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and Alberto Romulo had to undergo heart operations for their work. Secretary Ermita and I have lost weight much like the other Cabinet secretaries," Defensor said.

No one dares

A Palace source, who refused to be identified, said that most Cabinet officials had been complaining about the hectic schedule. They were, however, reluctant to raise the issue with the President because of her famous temper.

The source said Cabinet officials agreed to course their feelings through Defensor, who had been the only one bold enough to crack jokes in the middle of the President's bouts of temper.

"Nice tattoo!
Man, that must have stung.
Looks like it took the whole day too.
Now pan your phone to the left...
I swear, this video calling is phat.
Just look at how clean those lines are.
Zoom in. I want to see more detail.
Oh yeah. That is one sweet 'tat.
"OK babe, now zoom out all the way"
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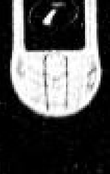
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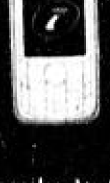
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Swallowed by the earth

From page A1

The Pope sent a telegram to the bishop of Maasin, expressing his "spiritual closeness" to the people of the Philippines and saying he was "deeply pained" by the tragedy.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a massive rescue and relief effort to be undertaken by her government and the private sector. *(Story on Page A1)*

"Let us all pray for those who perished and were affected by this tragedy," Ms Arroyo said in a statement. "Help is on the way," she promised survivors. "You will soon be out of harm's way."

FIRST AID: Rescuer wipes off a cake of mud on the face of a woman victim. All about the area, body parts could be seen protruding from the mud.

JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

By the time rescue work was suspended at nightfall, about 100 had survived, with the number of confirmed dead standing at 33, officials and survivors said.

About 300 pupils and their mothers were at the Guinsaugon Elementary School to commemorate "Women's Day" when the roar from the mountain came. It was not clear how many were buried in the schoolhouse.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, head of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said 500 millimeters of rainfall had fallen in the Southern Leyte area from Feb. 1 to 16.

Body parts

This was a huge amount compared to the average February rainfall of 127 millimeters recorded in the area in the previous 30 years, he said.

"It seems that this was the direct cause of the landslide," Cruz said.

Relief officials said body parts could be seen protruding from the mud but these could not be removed because the soil was still very soft and these were buried by at least 20 meters thick of mud.

Foreign help immediately poured in.

In Geneva, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said it had released the equivalent of $152,000 to provide assistance to the ravaged village.

More staff and trained volunteers are also being sent to the area, along with dog rescue teams, said the federation.

The US military is diverting a naval vessel taking part in war games in the Philippines to help the landslide victims, the US Embassy said.

It said it was also studying requests by the Philippine Red Cross for the US military to send heavy-lift helicopters to help in the rescue and relief efforts.

Estimates of the extent of casualties were conflicting.

"The estimates vary but really, there are hundreds of families that have been affected and thousands of people feared dead," Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said on ANC network.

Philippine National Red Cross Chair Richard Gordon gave a lower figure.

"There are about 1,500 missing, 200 dead," the Agence France-Press quoted Gordon as saying by phone from Geneva, where he was attending a Red Cross conference.

Air Force pilots who flew over the disaster scene reported that 90 percent of the more than 300 houses in the village were buried under mud.

"They were only able to see rooftops and felled coconut trees," Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said. He said that in some places the mudslide was up to six meters thick.

The tragedy was the latest of a long series of calamities to hit Southern Leyte. A killer landslide in 2003 hit three towns on Panaon Island and killed 105 people.

In November 1991, about 6,000 people were killed on Leyte island by floods and landslides triggered by a tropical storm.

Many of the dead in yesterday's calamity were feared to be children who were in an elementary school when the mud and boulders came crashing down.

One witness said the entire village of Guinsaugon was no longer visible.

"You can see only mud where the village was from the road," said Virgilio Mortera, mayor of Cabalian, a town next to St. Bernard, one of Southern Leyte's Pacific towns.

Mortera was one of the first persons to go to the scene.

"Survivors were walking with their clothes covered in mud," he said.

Mud also covered some of those pulled out alive by rescuers.

One child, apparently a girl, looked scared, her eyes open, as someone wiped the mud off her face, according to a television footage.

From the footage, it looked as if half of the mountain had crumbled.

Some survivors were seen fleeing the village naked, according to Norma Lim, a retired public school teacher and resident of Tanian.

The tragedy struck with no warning.

'Mountain fell'

Lim said it was a sunny day when the people of Guinsaugon heard a loud crash and felt the earth shake before water mixed with mud and boulders fell from the mountain.

"It looked like the entire mountain fell on the village," said Mayor Mortera.

He said that when he went to the scene to find out how he could help, he saw "only one house that remained standing."

Mud and rocks filled the village the size of three basketball courts.

He said from the way things looked, "up to 1,000 people could be dead there."

Bodies were being unearthed and soldiers had been sent to the area.

Mortera said volunteers who wanted to help were unable to reach the village as the weather turned bad after the mudslides.

"Mud is everywhere," said Mortera.

Officials expressed fear the death toll could rise as there was just one hospital near Guinsaugon and that is in Anahawan town. The hospital is now filled with injured people, according to Lim.

"We did not find injured people," said Ricky Estela, a crewman on a helicopter that flew to the scene. "Most of them are dead and beneath the mud."

The mud was so deep and unstable that rescue workers had difficulty approaching the buried school.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias put the population of the village of 375 households at 3,000.

St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim was supposed to be guest of honor at the school celebration but was not able to show up because she had to attend a meeting of mayors elsewhere.

She told the INQUIRER that she felt lucky, otherwise she might have been among those killed.

Lim said that when a portion of the mountain called Mt. Can-abag gave in, she did not expect the mudslide would hit the populated portion of the village because the mountain was about 2 km away from the barrio proper.

Soldiers to the rescue

Mario Apigo of the Office of Civil Defense said search and rescue operations were stopped at about 4:30 p.m. after cracks were seen near the area where Mt. Can-abag had collapsed.

Apigo said residents of other villages—Sug-angong, Nueva Esperanza and Tambisâ—had also been evacuated out of fear that a flash flood might occur after piles of mud had blocked the mouth of Lawigan River.

Authorities feared that once the mud gave way, the water might cascade down to the villages.

Soldiers from the 43rd Infantry Battalion, Air Force Search and Rescue Squadron and the Army's engineering brigade were among the teams sifting through mud and rocks to find survivors.

The Police Regional Office in Eastern Visayas also sent out 300 police trainees to help in the rescue operations.

Col. Nestor Sadyarin, deputy commander of the 802nd Brigade, said higher headquarters had requested big heavy equipment from Philippine National Oil Corp., Philippine Associated Smelting Refinery and Philippine Phosphate based in Leyte.

4th largest village

They were supposed to proceed to Guinsaugon but failed to do so because of the bad weather, said Sadyarin.

Guinsaugon is the fourth biggest village of St. Bernard, situated in the Pacific coast of Southern Leyte. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac, INQUIRER wires*

IN THE KNOW

Landslides

A landslide is a downward movement of a mass of rock, debris or earth. It occurs when soil and other materials that make up a slope fail.

Landslides have natural causes, such as rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and the weakening of cliffs by waves or rivers.

Human activities may also cause landslides. These include changes to natural drainage, leaking pipes, modification of slopes due to construction, mining activities, excavations, vibrations from heavy traffic or blasting, and removal of vegetation.

In Southern Leyte, coconuts and grass dominate farmlands near the coast. Because of their shallow root systems, these plants do not contribute much to soil stability, said Dr. Sandra Catane, a professor at the University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences.

Catane added that the soil in Southern Leyte, which is about five meters thick, is generally prone to landslides. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

'Mountain broke, and mud came rushing'

From page A1

By then, his village lay under mud and not a single tree stood where the landslide had hit.

Lipato could no longer locate his house where he had left his wife, Mary Jane, 26, and son Kyle Tristan, 2.

His father, Anastacio, 50, was also among those believed killed.

Lipato said earlier, before tending to his carabao, he had gone out to buy medicines for Tristan because the boy had fever.

'All houses gone'

"I still could not believe that they are gone. The houses are gone. They have been wiped out," he told the INQUIRER.

Lipato joined the survivors at the Action Center near the Municipal Hall, about 7 kilometers from Guinsaugon.

"We were not able to bring anything, not even P1," he told the INQUIRER.

Another survivor, Dario Libatan, told radio dzMM: "It sounded like the mountain exploded, and the whole thing crumbled ... I could not see any house standing anymore."

Three days before the landslide occurred, an unidentified old woman told the people in several barangays in St. Bernard that tragedy would strike, said Stephen Garvez, who lives in a nearby village.

"One of the people who was approached by the woman was a school teacher. But no one believed her. Instead, the people laughed at her," Garvez, who lives in barangay Tambis Uno. "Nobody knew her because she was not from the town."

Garvez said he went out of the house because there he felt a slight tremor in the ground. Then he heard an unusual noise that sounded like the engine of a helicopter.

Garvez recalled seeing the tip of the huge mountain starting to crack and gradually falling on the populated area of barangay Guinsaugon.

"The soil was cascading from the mountain. The side had chipped and slowly it became bigger. I was with my child when I saw that the area that collapsed had become bigger," he said.

"It just happened in a few seconds. Upon seeing it, I also ran away with the members of my family. I feared it would also reach our place," Garvez said.

A slight tremor was, in fact, recorded at 10:36 a.m. yesterday about 40 km from St. Bernard.

Rescuers were working to reach an elementary school where about 250 children and adults were feared buried, officials said.

Redgie Cabug-os, a local nurse, said she was waiting to see if her sister-in-law, a nurse at the buried school, might still be found alive.

"We are still hoping," she said, conceding that when viewed from a distance, "you would say there are no survivors."

Asked on television about the chances of rescuing those buried in the landslide, Gov. Rosette Lerias said: "It looks grim."

"The rule of thumb is, if it is within 24 hours, they can still be alive," she said.

Help from the miners

In the wake of the tragedy, Philip Romualdez, president of Chamber of Mines, said he had spoken with Philippine National Red Cross chair Sen. Richard Gordon regarding aid for the victims in terms of bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment.

"We have teams mobilizing now, coming from all over like Northern Mindanao, Leyte and Benguet provinces, and companies namely Pasar, Holcim, Lafarge, Benguet and Philex," Romualdez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said government resources were being harnessed to bring in the fastest way the "biggest possible rescue and relief" operation to the disaster area.

"Help ... will come from land, sea and air," she said on television.

The President talked on her mobile phone with Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerios who described the tragedy.

"*Parang nilukot na banig yung lupa* (The land was rolled up like a mat). The area covered by the landslide is very, very big ma'am," said Lerios.

Ms Arroyo said the whole naval force in the Visayas has been deployed to Leyte with all Navy ships to serve as floating hospitals and command centers.

Shipload of food

Ms Arroyo said the government had hired a whole ship courtesy of the Aboitiz Foundation to bring food and rice from the National Food Authority warehouses in Cebu and medicine from the Department of Health to Leyte today.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has also been ordered to help army engineers in clearing the Mahaplag-Sogod section of the national highway which is the area's vital link to Mindanao.

Ms Arroyo said the Philippine Mining Safety and Environment Association had come forward, just like it did in the Aurora and Quezon landslides in 2004, to organize rescue units that require massive digging.

The President assured the victims of a "torrent of a different kind" as donors from international and local sources had pledged their support upon hearing news of the tragedy. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Joey A. Gabieta and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila*

Mike D told: To release Erap against law

From page A1

tegrity of the proceedings of the Sandiganbayan Special Division," Villa-Ignacio warned.

Both administration and opposition legislators yesterday also shot down the proposal, saying it was tantamount to Palace interference in judicial processes.

On Thursday, Defensor disclosed that three religious leaders—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo—are willing to serve as guarantors for Estrada in the event that he applies for temporary freedom.

This was confirmed by Cardinal Vidal yesterday but he stressed that he had no agreement with Malacañang officials, particularly President Macapagal-Arroyo, about the move.

"The three leaders are willing to guarantee [that] Estrada is not a flight risk and that he would be placed under their recognizance," Defensor said, adding that the plan was for the good of the national interest.

The President was aware of the three religious leaders' position and the Palace would not oppose the arrangement, Defensor said.

Not allowed

But Villa-Ignacio said Defensor's plan had no legal basis since Estrada was facing plunder charges, a non-bailable offense, and there was strong evidence of guilt.

Villa-Ignacio explained that under the law, those facing capital offenses with strong evidence of guilt were not allowed to post bail or be released on recognizance.

"Even if they release Estrada to US President George Bush Jr., it would not be allowed. The Special Division would even deny the motion for bail which he filed recently," Villa-Ignacio said in Filipino.

Estrada's lawyers have been asking the Sandiganbayan Special Division to allow Estrada to post bail or release him on recognizance, even if only for 30 days, to allow him to prepare for his defense.

Estrada is under house arrest at his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

Political turmoil

A Palace official apparently believes that Estrada's release from house arrest could end the political turmoil hounding the Arroyo administration.

But Defensor and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday reiterated that the Sandiganbayan, not Malacañang, would have the final say on the question of Estrada's release from house arrest.

Bunye reiterated the Palace would respect whatever decision the Sandigan would make on Estrada's case.

"The President has always been for humanitarian treatment of the former President but all other details we are leaving to the Sandiganbayan," Bunye told reporters.

The Palace, he said, was "not about to interfere in any judicial process" concerning the case of Estrada.

Defensor, who is on top of the Palace's reconciliation efforts with Estrada, made it clear that the Palace was not in any way interfering in Estrada's plunder case, noting that the case should proceed before the Sandiganbayan.

"What we're saying is that for the interest of all, let's have some peace, especially now that the economy is strong, business confidence is high in and out of the country," Defensor told dzMM radio in Filipino.

It was necessary that "this problem should be set aside," according to Defensor, apparently referring to Estrada's continued house arrest.

He said it was Ka Eraño Manalo, leader of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo, who had early on pressed for Estrada's release from detention.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan also warned Malacañang against further issuing statements on Estrada's plunder case lest it be accused of interfering in a judicial matter.

"Out of respect for the rule of law and the Constitution, Malacañang should stop issuing statements lest it be guilty in interfering in a matter that rests exclusively with the judiciary," he said in a text message.

Survival at all costs

Pangilinan pointed out that Palace statements on the case undermined the judiciary's independence in the same way that Executive Order No. 464 tended to cripple Congress in the exercise of its functions as a co-equal branch.

"Both acts are indicative of an executive branch that is out of bounds. I hope I'm mistaken but that it seems it's all about survival at all costs and thus the Constitution can go to hell. Malacañang must rethink its posturing in both instances," he said.

EO 464 bars administration, police and military officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's go-signal.

Control over Sandigan

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that Defensor's pronouncements on Estrada's possible release on recognizance made it appear that Malacañang had control over the Sandiganbayan.

"It appears that they are in full control over the courts that they can guarantee or offer certain deals," Escudero told the INQUIRER in an interview.

According to Rep. Rolex Suplico, Defensor should keep his mouth shut and allow the Sandiganbayan to do its job. "After all, the issue of whether or not President Erap should be granted bail is within the sole discretion of the Sandiganbayan, and not with the Palace."

Premature

Even allies of President Arroyo yesterday cautioned Malacañang against brokering Estrada's release on recognizance, saying it was tantamount to interference in judicial processes.

Representatives Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela), chair of the House committee on bases conversion and development, and Eduardo Veloso (Nationalist People's Coalition, Leyte), member of the Commission on Appointments, dismissed as "premature" any offer to guarantee the liberty of the ousted leader.

"This would be up to the sole jurisdiction of the court," said Uy, explaining that talking about Estrada's release on recognizance would be "baseless" because "the Sandiganbayan has not asked Estrada to submit names of anyone who can guarantee that he is not a flight risk."

Not for capital offenses

Uy also said that recognizance or guarantors were not available for capital offenses. "Even bishops or high government officials as guarantors are not allowed for capital expenses."

Veloso said Estrada's plunder and perjury cases must be decided on their "merits and not on political maneuvering," and that the court should be allowed to exercise its authority to decide on Estrada's cases.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez also said he doubted if Estrada could be released on recognizance, pointing out that he was facing the non-bailable offense of plunder. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

No reconciliation with Palace

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada's release would not mean that he has reconciled with the Arroyo administration, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada stressed yesterday.

"He is very happy. If ever he is released on recognizance, that does not mean that he will ally himself with the administration. No way," the younger Estrada said.

He stressed that it was the administration camp that broached the idea that his father be released.

Estrada said his father's lawyers might file as early as Monday the motion for his father's release on recognizance.

Estrada insisted that his father was not a flight risk, adding that the former President never tried to escape during the five years he was in jail.

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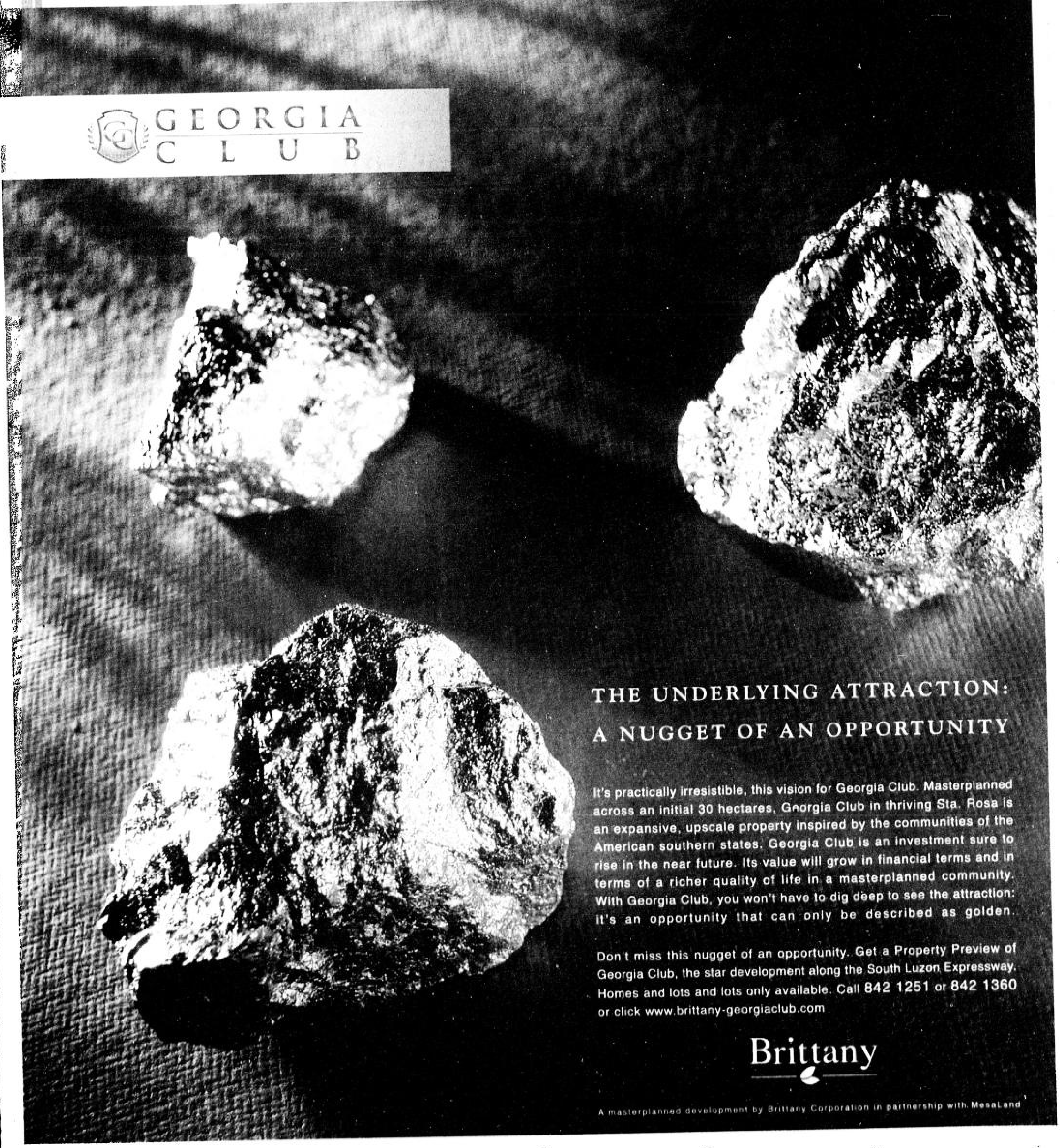

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Palace justifies low key rites: Edsa spirit resides in the hearts

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY JUSTIFIED THE low-key commemoration of the 20th anniversary of People Power I which miffed former President Fidel Ramos, saying that the spirit of Edsa resided in the "hearts and minds of every Filipino" and not in any ceremony.

"The true meaning of Edsa resides in the national memory and in the hearts and minds of every Filipino and not in pomp and ceremony or rhetoric," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Ramos, a central figure in the People Power 1 uprising in February 1986 which led to the downfall of the regime of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, on Wednesday assailed the Arroyo administration's apparent lack of enthusiasm for celebrating the milestone. Ramos had also hinted that he might not show up in Malacañang-organized events from Feb.22-25.

Ramos was scheduled to place, with President Macapagal-Arroyo, a wreath at the Libingan ng Bayani on Feb. 22. But the former president, who had just arrived from a trip abroad, said he had yet to receive an invitation from the Palace.

Bunye said he was certain that the newly-organized Edsa People Power Commission would take care of giving Ramos an invitation.

Bunye also said the presence of the former president "will help contribute in the celebration," since he was a "major player" in the 1986 revolt.

Bunye also disclosed Malacañang's view that during the week, President Arroyo "prefers to go to the people and bring to them directly the message of hope, unity and courage amid difficult times."

Muslims, Christians told: Promote tolerance

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil—Protestant churches have weighed in on the firestorm generated by the publication of caricatures depicting Islam's Prophet Muhammad in Danish papers, calling on Christians and Muslims "to work together" to restore calm.

Leaders of the World Council of Churches (WCC), which is holding its 9th general assembly here, noted that the "violent reactions" to the cartoons and Western newspapers' insistence that they represented an expression of the freedom of speech, "continue to put fuel on the fire."

Rev. Samuel Kobia, WCC general secretary, said Christians and Muslims must join hands "to promote tolerance and address ignorance about the other."

The WCC groups more than 340 Protestant churches, denominations and fellowships in over 100 countries and territories worldwide. It represents 550 million Christians and Orthodox churches.

Kobia, noting that some 60 newspapers have reprinted the cartoons, said freedom of speech was a fundamental right, but "it should not be used to humiliate people's values and dignity, because it devalues the foundation on which that right is based."

Catholicos Aram I, WCC moderator, also urged Christians to help ease the tension caused by the cartoons "by respecting diversity," which, he said, also meant "respecting democratic values, and not imposing our traditions on our neighbors."

The drawings – including one which depicts the prophet with a turban shaped like a bomb with a burning fuse – were first published in September and recently triggered worldwide protests and violence from Muslims.

Islam widely holds that representation of the prophet are banned for fear that they could lead to idolatry.

Rev. Victor Azariah, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Pakistan, also challenged Christians to help educate other people, including the Western press, to respect the deep faith of those who practice Islam.

(Malanes is in Brazil to cover the 9th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches from Feb. 14 to 23.)

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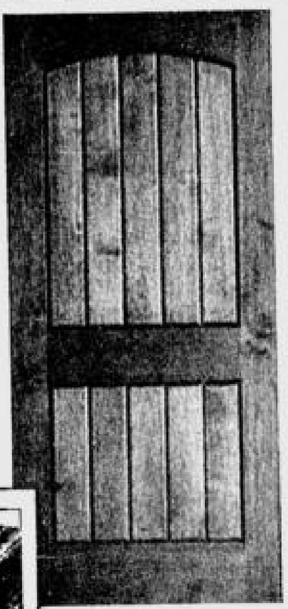

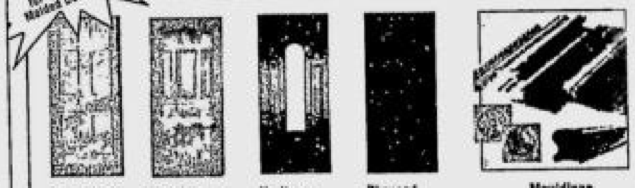
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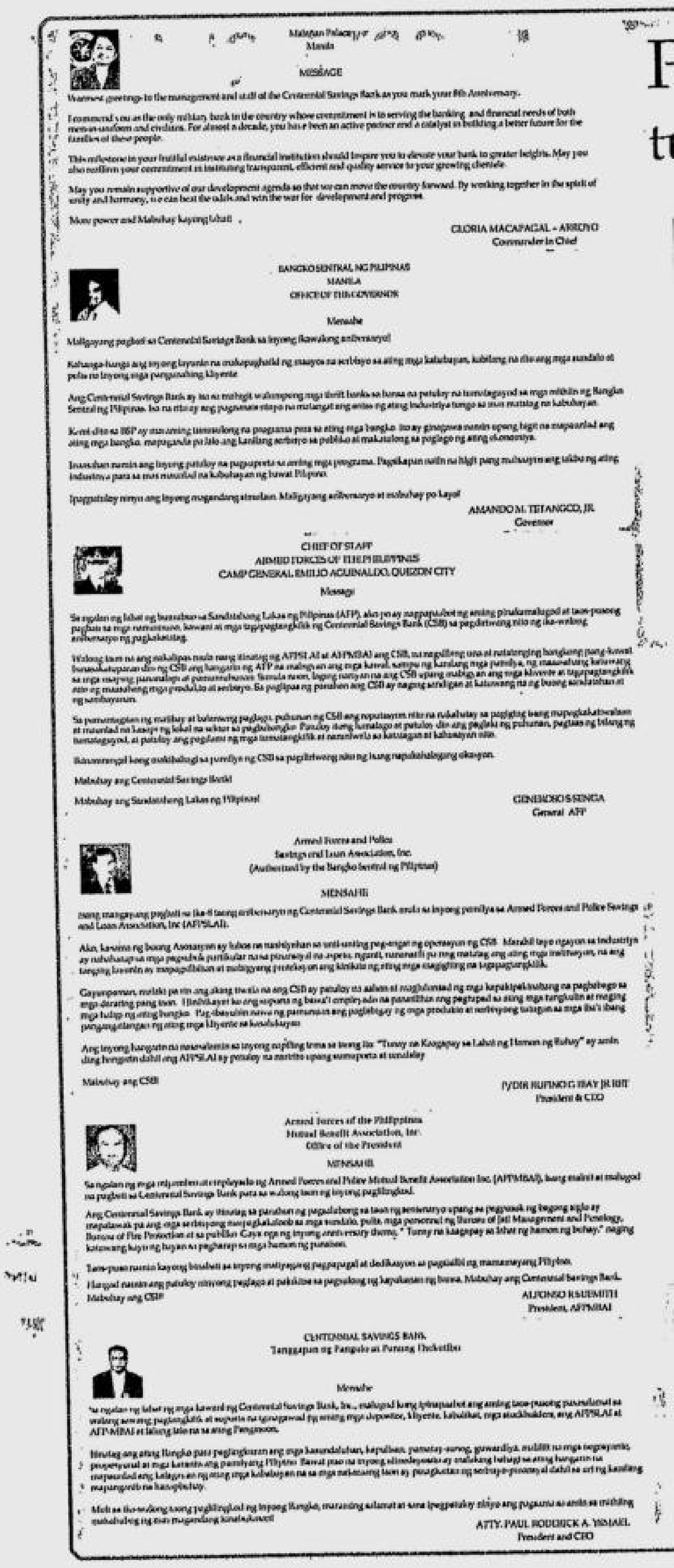

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Fugitive Korean arrested in Cebu

A SOUTH KOREAN fugitive accused of swindling compatriots of over $240,000 was arrested in Cebu City on Thursday, the Bureau of Immigration announced yesterday.

Nabbed was 50-year-old Park Myung Gi, who was collared by operatives from the BI and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime.

The Korean Embassy in Manila and the Interpol in Seoul had earlier sought the help of Philippine authorities in arresting Park, BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said in a statement.

Park arrived in the country in June last year to evade arrest and prosecution in his home country, said Hussin.

The BI also learned that Park is an overstaying alien because he had failed to extend his tourist visa that expired on July 7.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said Park would be deported for overstaying and for being an undesirable alien.

Leila B. Salaverria

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bird flu tightens hold on Europe

LJUBLJANA—BIRD FLU TOOK A FIRM HOLD ON Europe on Thursday, moving officially into Slovenia, and putting countries in the Middle East and Africa on alert.

While swans were the sentinels, their limp bodies a dramatic testament to the spread of the virus, experts said other birds were almost certainly carrying H5N1 influenza to poultry.

Germany discovered 10 more H5N1 cases, Greece detected an additional two and Austria also reported one more.

"Of course we are worried and we have to get used to the fact that avian flu is now spreading within the European Union," Zsuzsanna Jakab, head of the EU's Stockholm-based European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, told Reuters television.

Hungary was awaiting results from a specialist laboratory in Britain to determine whether the H5 virus detected in three dead wild swans on Wednesday was the H5N1 strain.

"Even with the most rigorous action we cannot assume that we will overcome this matter in a few weeks," German Agriculture Minister Horst Seehofer said in a televised speech.

Iraq declared a bird flu alert in a province south of the capital Baghdad to prevent people from transporting birds in and out of the area, Al Arabiya television reported.

The virus killed an Iraqi teenage girl in January.

H5N1 influenza remains mainly a disease of poultry, and has killed or forced the culling of more than 200 million birds across Asia, parts of the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

But it has also infected 169 people, killing 91, and is steadily mutating. If it acquires the ability to easily pass from person to person, it could cause a pandemic that would kill millions.

Evidence suggests it is carried both by wild birds and in the poultry trade and experts say quick culling is the best way to control an outbreak in birds.

Dr. Albert Osterhaus, a virologist at Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands, said while swans were the most obvious victims in Europe, they were not the likely source of the spread. *Reuters*

CHICKENS feed close to a baby in a village near Lagos, Nigeria, Feb. 16. The deadly H5N1 strain was confirmed last week in four farms in three northern Nigerian states, but there have been suspected outbreaks in at least five other states in Africa's most populous country. REUTERS

Scientists detect first neutrinos in giant Antarctic detector

TOKYO—HOPING TO UNLOCK the mysteries of black holes and the Big Bang, a team of scientists from Japan and seven other countries has apparently detected its first neutrinos in a multiyear project under way in Antarctica.

The project, dubbed "IceCube," was launched in 2002, but only detected its first neutrinos on Jan. 29, recording the faint flashes of light given off by the particles when they interact with electrons in water molecules, team member Shigeru Yoshida, a cosmic-ray physics professor at Chiba University, said Thursday.

Yoshida said it was the first time neutrinos had been captured in a natural environment outside a laboratory, but cautioned that the results still needed to be studied and confirmed.

Neutrinos are subatomic particles with almost no mass and no electrical charge that are associated with radioactive decay. They so rarely interact with matter that they can typically pass entirely through the Earth unobstructed.

Scientists want to study the elusive particles because they may hold the key to understanding the explosion of super-massive stars, known as supernovae.

They also may hold secrets to other distant celestial objects, as they are thought to remain relatively intact during their travel through space.

But scientists say detecting neutrinos is tricky. It requires specialized equipment deep underground—shielded by heavy layers of rock from constant infiltration by cosmic rays, which may interfere with detection.

The IceCube project uses holes dug 2,500 meters into ice near the South Pole.

By using the vast Antarctic ice cap as a shield against cosmic rays, the team avoids the often prohibitive costs of building a specialized water tank, which is part of the conventional design for such experiments, Yoshida said.

"If neutrinos were obtained this way, it would signal a new breakthrough in the study of the formation of the cosmos," said Shigeru Machida, an honorary professor of elementary particle theory at Kyoto University, who is not involved in the project.

The Antarctic project is important because it should allow scientists to study where in space the neutrinos are coming from and how strongly they bombard Earth, Machida said. *AP*

Woman kills 2 tots with sashimi knife

TOKYO—A WOMAN REPEATEDLY stabbed two of her daughter's kindergarten classmates with a sashimi knife on Friday, leaving them to die on a remote country road in the ricefields of western Japan, police said.

The 34-year-old Chinese woman, who was supposed to drive the two 5-year-olds to school with her own child, gashed the classmates around a dozen times each with the 20-centimeter thin fish-cutting blade.

"I took a sashimi knife and stabbed them in the car," Zheng Yongshan, who also goes by the Japanese name Mie Taniguchi, was quoted as saying by police.

She slashed the boy and girl in the stomach and back and tossed them out near ricefields in the town of Nagahama in Shiga prefecture, 300 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, police said.

"She has not yet talked about what motivated her to kill the children," a police officer said.

But a neighbor recalled that Taniguchi, who came to Japan five years ago and moved to the area in 2004, would complain she could not get along with the mothers of her daughter's classmates, Jiji Press reported.

A passerby spotted the bloodied body of the girl, Wakana Taketomo, on a small road running through the farmland. The boy, Jin Sano, was recovered lying in a small irrigation stream, police said.

Taniguchi, who is married to a Japanese, would take turns with other parents driving the children to school and it was her turn Friday morning, police said. *AFP*

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Belgian court links 9 to Madrid train bombings

BRUSSELS—A BELGIAN COURT found nine people guilty on Thursday of belonging to an extremist group linked to the deadly Madrid train bombings two years ago and attacks in Casablanca in 2003.

The court ruled that the nine men were members of a Belgian cell of the Moroccan Islamic Combat Group (GICM), which is linked to the al-Qaida network and listed internationally as a "terrorist" organization.

The GICM has been accused of involvement in the March 2004 train bombings in Madrid, which killed 191 people and injured around 1,900.

It has also been blamed for attacks in Casablanca in May 2003 in which 45 people were killed.

The court found three of the men guilty of leading the cell. It sentenced Abdelaker Hakimi and Lahoussine El Haski to seven years in prison and Mustapha Lounani to a six-year term.

Of the other accused, three were jailed for five years, one for four years and one for three years. The last was given a four-month suspended sentence.

Two other men were found guilty of illegal residency but the court did not sentence them. A further two were acquitted.

Most of the 13 men on trial, who all denied the charges, are Belgian nationals of Moroccan origin.

The presiding judge, Pierre Hendrickx, described the nine found guilty as "extremely dangerous" and said he hoped their sentences would set an example.

The trial, which began in Brussels three months ago, is the first to be covered by Belgium's tough new antiterror laws. These laws allow for sentences of up to 15 years.

The court said the nine accused had provided support to the GICM.

Some were notably found to have housed GICM members after the March 11, 2004, train bombings in the Spanish capital and to have raised funds for the group.

The prosecutors did not establish during the trial that the men had planned or carried out any attack.

The 13 suspects were picked up in two separate operations, the first in March 2004 at Maaseik on the Belgian-Dutch border, the second in swoops in Brussels and Antwerp in June that year.

Some of the accused are also thought to be linked to the Netherlands-based Islamist group "Hofstad." One of Hofstad's members, Mohammed Bouyeri, has been given a life sentence for murdering Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh.

The trial in Belgium was the latest in a series in the country involving suspected Islamist militants.

In June 2004, a 10-year jail term was handed down to former Tunisian footballer Nizar Trabelsi for planning a suicide attacks on a Belgian Nato base on behalf of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. *AFP*

Texas police clear Cheney in shooting

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS—LOCAL POLICE cleared Vice President Dick Cheney of any wrongdoing in his weekend hunting mishap and closed the case on Thursday, saying no charges would be filed.

Kennedy County Sheriff Ramon Salinas said an investigation had determined Cheney shot Texas lawyer Harry Whittington by accident, therefore no legal action was needed.

"No charges will be filed against anybody, and that's it," Salinas told reporters in brief comments outside his office in the town of Sarita, south of Corpus Christi.

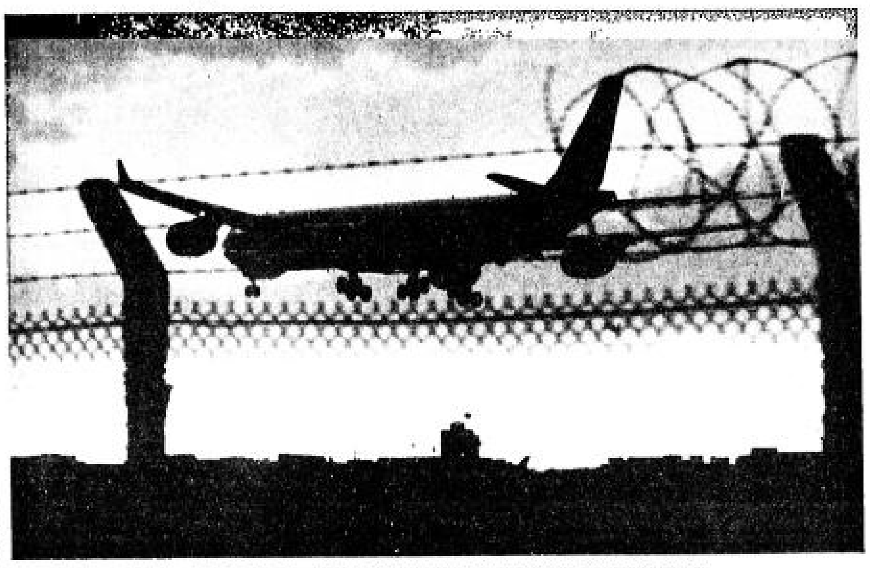
President George W. Bush, in his first public comments on the shooting, said on Thursday he was satisfied with the explanation Cheney gave about the incident.

"I thought the vice president handled the issue just fine. And I thought his explanation yesterday was a powerful explanation," Bush said in Washington.

Cheney sprayed Whittington, 78, with birdshot on Saturday when he whirled around to shoot a flying quail while hunting on a southern Texas ranch.

Chief Deputy Gilbert San Miguel, who conducted the shooting probe, said: "Our investigation is over ... this was just a mere hunting accident."

A final report issued on Thursday showed that San Miguel did not start his investigation until a day after the shooting and his questioning of Whittington was cut off by a hospital nurse who said he needed to rest. *Reuters*



FUROR OVER ALLEGED AIR TRANSPORT PRICE FIXING

A flight lands at Heathrow Airport in London Aug. 11, 2005. Users of air freight transport have been complaining for years that something fishy might be going on in the industry. Now authorities across the world are asking if airlines colluded to fix prices on surcharges for fuel, security and insurance.

AFP

US hit over new Iraq abuse images

BAGHDAD—NEW IMAGES OF ABUSE AT ABU Ghraib prison prompted Iraq's president to condemn his close ally the United States on Thursday, demanding harsh punishment for "savage crimes" as Iraqis seethed over more humiliation.

In unusually strong language, Jalal Talabani was critical of Washington as the new images were digested by Iraqis and other Arabs already enraged by insulting cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad which were published in European newspapers.

"We have condemned these savage crimes. We reject that a civilized country allow its soldiers to commit these ugly and terrible crimes," Talabani told reporters.

"We demand very harsh punishments against the perpetrators."

In Washington, Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman played down the reaction over the images, saying they were not new and that the perpetrators had already been brought to justice. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US rejects calls to shut Guantanamo

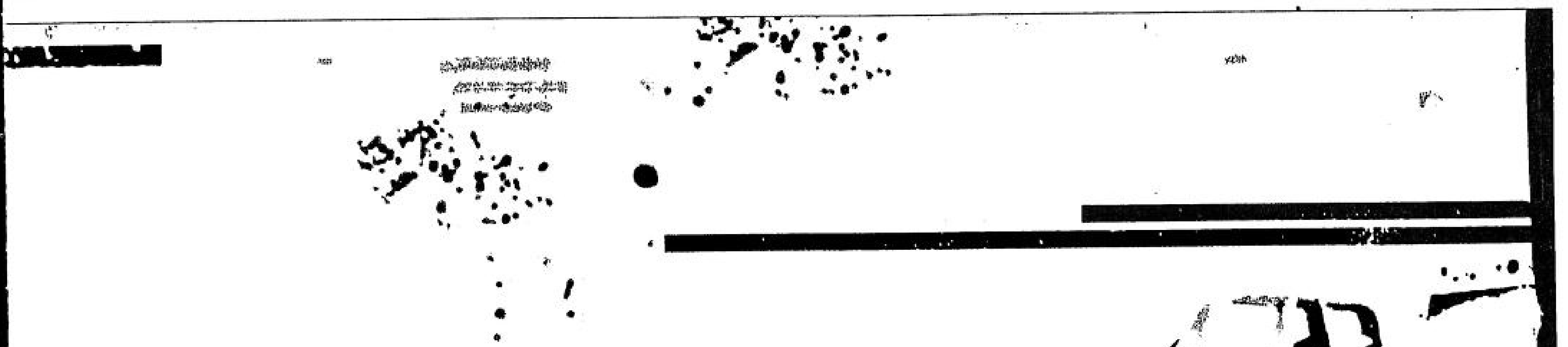
WASHINGTON—The United States on Thursday angrily rejected calls by UN human rights monitors to close the Guantanamo "war on terror" detention camp calling their report "a discredit" to the world body. But UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that "sooner or later" the controversial camp will have to be shut down—stepping up pressure on the US administration. European lawmakers also urged Washington to close the camp in the wake of the UN rights monitors' report, and a senior British Cabinet member also said the controversial detention center should now be shuttered. The report by five independent experts acting as monitors for the UN Human Rights Commission said the US government should close Guantanamo "without further delay." The 54-page document strongly condemned the treatment of the 500 detainees at the Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base in Cuba. It pointed to cases of "excessive violence" during transportation of detainees and force feeding of hunger strikers. These "must be assessed as amounting to torture," the report said. *AFP*

Pakistan Islamists protest cartoons

KARACHI—Tens of thousands of Pakistani Islamists wielding sticks and waving green flags rallied in Karachi against cartoons of Prophet Muhammad on Thursday, the latest in a wave of protests in which five people have died. A crowd of up to 50,000 rallied in the main commercial district of the sprawling southern city, and some torched effigies of US President George W. Bush and Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Protesters wearing green headbands shouted slogans of "Here I come, O Muhammad" and "Death to blasphemers" as thousands of policemen and paramilitary troops looked on. The crowd dispersed peacefully at the end, in contrast to the violence seen in Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar earlier this week. A branch of US-based Citibank, and an office of the German company Siemens, hung black flags to mask their logos, as did a Christian hospital and several cinemas on the rally's route. *Reuters*

Preval's presidential victory hailed

PORT-AU-PRINCE—Haitians and their neighbors have welcomed the election of Rene Preval as president, amid signs aid was in the pipeline to help restore stability in the hemisphere's poorest country. Haitians had celebrated in the streets after Preval was declared the winner of the Feb. 7 presidential election early Thursday following a reshuffling of blank ballots, in an internationally brokered deal over fraud claims. His election closes a chapter on a UN-backed interim government installed after former President Jean Bertrand Aristide fled the country two years ago in the face of an armed uprising. Neighboring countries offered their congratulations and encouragement. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Clueless?

EDITORIAL

INCOMPREHENSIBLE!" DIRECTOR GENERAL ARturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police reportedly muttered in disbelief after hearing about the existence of the drug enclave in Pasig City that was raided by operatives of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (Aidsotf) last Feb. 10. But it was not so incomprehensible to the public: The place could not have operated so openly and flourished without the protection of influential and powerful people.

People cannot be blamed for thinking so. The drug enclave, known as the Mapayapa Compound, was located right in the heart of the city, virtually within spitting distance of a police community precinct, the Eastern Police District headquarters and Pasig City Hall. Shabu in various discount packages was being sold there like fake designer clothes in a *tiangge* and the "goods and services" available were even advertised in "display menus" together with their corresponding prices. Patrons could relish their precious buys in "restaurants"—inside "VIP rooms," if they wanted—where they could rent all the necessary paraphernalia as well.

The place even had its own set of business rules and penalties—operating almost like a government unto itself. And word about this "specialty market" had spread far and wide. It was not like a *talipapa* serving the neighborhood. Its clientele came from different places and from all walks of life, some of them getting there in Mercedes-Benzes, BMWs and other types of luxury vehicles.

Ironically, the mayor of Pasig City and police officials—the very people who, because of their jobs, are expected to be on the lookout for dangerous crimes and, therefore, should be among the first to know about them—were the most clueless about its existence—or so they now claim. Police Supt. Raul Medina, the city's chief of police who has since been relieved of his post, admitted to complete ignorance. "*Blangko talaga ako dito*," he said. And Mayor Vicente Eusebio publicly scolded barangay and local police officials for being "lazy, blind, or worse, in cahoots with those operating the shabu den"—as if the same things could not be said about him.

Director Vidal Querol, the police chief for Metro Manila, said the Pasig police had conducted several raids on the place. The last one, he said, led to the arrest of 18 drug pushers, and that was conducted only last Jan. 25. These earlier raids and arrests indicated that the police had "fair knowledge" of the drug trade there, Querol pointed out. Still, it took a private citizen, an overseas worker, working with the help of two media personalities, to get the police to conduct the "explosive raid" on Mapayapa.

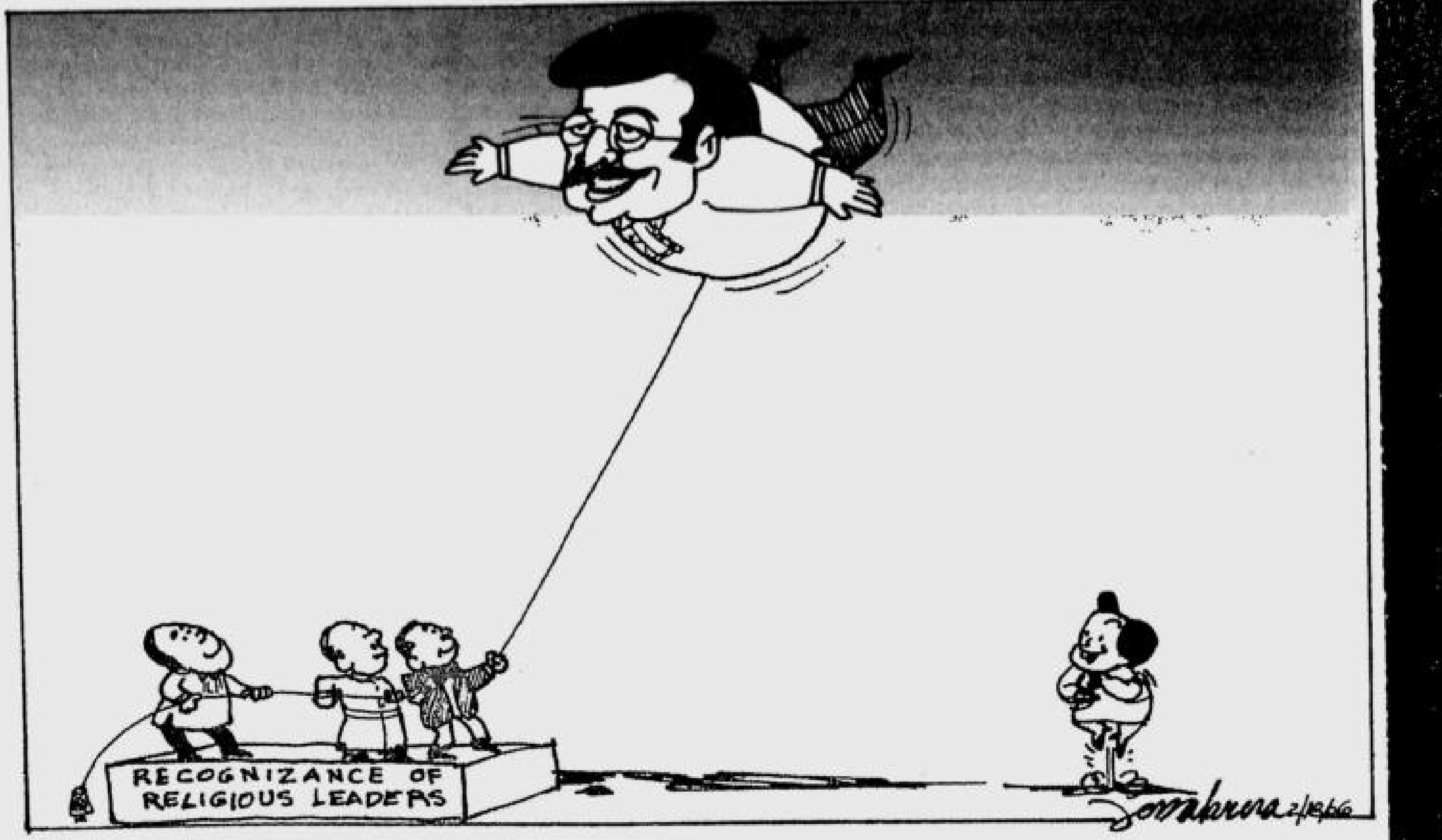
Not so very long ago, a spate of police raids dismantled a number of shabu factories in different parts of the country, some of them inside plush subdivisions in Metro Manila. The Arroyo administration trumpeted the raids as proof that it had regained the upper hand in the fight against the drug menace. Seeing that it was not an empty claim, the public must have felt assured. After Mapayapa, we cannot help but wonder what those past raids have come up to. Have cases been filed and punishment meted out? Is the illegal drug business really on the wane?

The fact that the Mapayapa drug *tiangge* was able to operate almost openly and with impunity suggests that drug dealers have kept, or even worse, widened, their connections. This much PDEA Director Anselmo Avenido, who had six agents assigned to Pasig, conceded: "The drug den could not have lasted this long without the cooperation of corrupt police officials and men." But how far up have these connections gone? It's terrifying to think that the drug menace might have become as widespread and intractable as smuggling.

But, of course, Avenido only echoes what most everybody who should have known about Mapayapa is **not** saying: "It's only **now** that we came to know about Mapayapa or that the extent of the problem had become that embarrassing."

Police and city officials can explain all they want. But their ignorance about an illegal drug trade that had been going on for months, if not for years, and right in their own backyard is inexcusable and quite simply incredible.

More so now that Eusebio has ordered the shabu market dismantled and razed to the ground, destroying potential evidence in the process.



Fugitives beyond our reach

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE EFFECTIVE WAY OF EVADING PROSEcution and punishment in tnis country is to flee to another country. I said this five years ago in this column (3/11/01) and chided the government as co-principals in the flight of five fugitives. Last year I wrote again of the same problem and added another person who had also eluded Philippine jurisdiction by taking convenient refuge abroad. I suppose there are many others who have taken the same escape route to flout the criminal laws of our country.

The first five fugitives I mentioned in 2001 were Rodolfo Pacificador, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Yolanda Ricaforte, Michael Ray Aquino, and Cesar Mancao. The sixth escapee last year was Faustino Chingkoe.

Rodolfo Pacificador is the son of Arturo Pacificador who was acquitted last year of the murder of Evelio Javier. Instead of surrendering to the authorities like his father (although belatedly), he flew to Canada soon after Edsa I to avoid prosecution here as the possible mastermind of the crime. The Philippines requested his return but to no avail. He still enjoys his asylum in that foreign land with the protection of its Supreme Court.

Ang as the alleged "bagman" of Erap and Ricaforte as the accountant of his suspect fortune would have been asked to testify against him in the Sandiganbayan or maybe even prosecuted with him. Not surprisingly, however, they had earlier conveniently slipped out of the country, probably with government assistance. Ang has lately been arrested in the United States for some minor offense; Ricaforte is probably also there but is supposedly nowhere to be found.

Aquino and Mancao, close confederates of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the PNP, are wanted for the murder of Bubby Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito, presumably to silence them. After the killing, the two former police agents left together in a chartered plane for Hong Kong and then replaced their false travel papers with Philippine passports when they flew to the United States or Canada. There is no showing that our authorities exerted any effort to detain them.

Aquino has since been apprehended and is now facing espionage charges in the United States, but Mancao is yet to be located. Like Aquino, Mancao is reportedly in contact with some associates here who have refused to reveal his whereabouts. Both of them cannot be tried here *in absentia* because they have not yet been arraigned. Meanwhile, the Bubby Dacer case is sleeping in the police files despite the protests of the victim's daughters.

Chingkoe, who decamped with his family to Canada (4/25/05), has transferred his business activities there and now lives in a C$500,000 house he bought probably with part of the billions of pesos he allegedly stole in a tax fraud for which he was being tried before the Sandiganbayan. His departure was also made under questionable circumstances.

Sometime ago, two Chinese accused of drug trafficking were able to leave the country most likely with the connivance of some immigration agents. The escapees are now in China and there is little chance that they will be brought back to the Philippines for prosecution and punishment.

I should also mention Rod Strunk, the suspected killer of Nida Blanca, who was able to leave the Philippines on the solemn promise that he would return if and when his presence should be needed. It is needed now, but he is still safely in his home state and intends to remain there. If his extradition has been requested by our foreign office, it is probably being simply ignored by the American government.

All the above-mentioned fugitives have not been returned to this country to face the criminal charges awaiting them. Our government cannot claim innocence if, by reason of its neglect or unconcern, these runaways remain outside our criminal jurisdiction in the safety of their states of refuge. Another reason could be the little respect accorded our inconsequential government in the family of nations.

It is worth recalling that when the United States requested the extradition of Mark Jimenez, the Philippines expeditiously complied although the subject was at the time a member of our House of Representatives. By contrast, the asylum states of our wanted fugitives seem to be less than willing to find and send them back to our country in accordance with their treaty obligations or international comity.

The case of Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante is different because he is not wanted for a criminal offense. There is some similarity, though, in that he has left the country, some say also surreptitiously, to avoid being investigated by the Senate on the disposition of the P728 million fertilizer fund that is suspected as having been illegally spent for election purposes.

Perhaps Bolante is waiting for the Supreme Court to "legitimize" Executive Order No. 464 so he can't be punished for contempt of the Senate if he refuses to appear before it. If he is sure that the EO will not be declared unconstitutional, he must know something we don't know.

Do we have bionic election commissioners?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LAST WEEK, I WROTE ABOUT A DECISION that would, unless reversed, sound the death knell for the institution we know as the Civil Service, because its message is that government career officers must play ball with the administration instead of maintaining their neutrality and nonpartisanship.

The two-against-one decision of the three-member Civil Service Commission went against career Undersecretary Miguel Luz, with CSC Chair Karina C. David strongly dissenting from her two colleagues.

Today I write about a decision—by yet another constitutionally mandated institution, the Commission on Elections—which reflects the appalling extent to which that institution has been weakened and has to be completely reformed.

The unanimous decision of the Comelec's First Division, composed of Commissioners Rufino SB Javier, Resurreccion Z. Borra and Romeo A. Brawler (whose recent appointment is awaiting confirmation), was penned by Presiding Commissioner Javier, with the following certification: "This is to certify that the conclusions in the foregoing Resolution were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Commission (First Division)." The certification was signed by Javier, and the decision promulgated last Jan. 31.

On its face, the decision appears cut-and-dried: The Nueva Vizcaya governorship was won in the May 2004 elections by Luisa Loren Cuaresma over her closest rival Leonardo Byron Perez, by a margin of 2,781 votes—56,008 to 53,227. Perez questioned the results from 308 precincts; Cuaresma filed a counter-protest involving 366 precincts—or a total of 674 protested precincts out of 1,016 in Nueva Vizcaya.

Since 154,390 of the 202,684 registered voters actually voted, the average number of voters per precinct exceeded 150.

The First Division opened the ballot boxes in September 2004 and all contested ballots were photocopied by the parties and then placed in 67 ballot boxes, each box containing an average of 10 precincts. Each of these boxes had three padlocks and sealed with a self-locking plastic seal (SLPS). The ballot box numbers and the serial numbers of the SLPS were duly recorded in the Minutes of Photocopying filed with the Election Contest and Adjudication Division (ECAD) of the Comelec.

All the ballot boxes were deposited with the Ballot Box Custodian of the Comelec until such time as they were brought to the office of the commissioner assigned to write the decision, where the three commissioners would examine the ballots to determine the merits of the claims of the protestant (Perez) and the protestee (Cuaresma).

The First Division, "after a painstaking examination of the ballots," invalidated 3,509 ballots cast for Cuaresma for being allegedly written in pairs by one person. It invalidated 18 ballots of Perez for the same reason. It also awarded 538 "valid claim" votes to Cuaresma, and 506 to Perez. The long and the short of it is that on the basis of these findings, the division declared Perez the winner by a margin of 678 (53,715 to 53,037) votes, and ordered Cuaresma to vacate the governorship.

But one only has to read the decision to start getting suspicious. On Page 4, it says: "The Commission (FIRST DIVISION) examined the contested ballots, tedious though the process was, and notwithstanding the fact that the more than 20,000 vote lead of protestee over protestant looked insurmountable." Huh? Just two pages previously, it had noted that Cuaresma's lead over Perez was only 2,781 votes! A typographical error? Not with the description "insurmountable"—2,781 votes cannot be considered insurmountable.

Romulo Macalintal, the election lawyer retained by Cuaresma after the Comelec decision, had deep misgivings about the decision, because in his 25-year experience, he was pretty sure that the examination—nay, "painstaking examination"—of about 100,000 ballots (674 precincts times an average of 150 ballots per precinct) requires much more time than indicated by the turnaround time of the decision. What is more, Macalintal knew that the Comelec was practically crippled by vacancies, and the First Division hadn't met so often as to allow for such a painstaking examination.

So, Macalintal went to the Comelec's Ballot Box Custodian to start his own verification. And sure enough, he found out that a total of 25 ballot boxes containing the ballots from 256 precincts—or 38 percent of the 674 contested precincts—had their seals intact. Which means that these ballot boxes—containing about 38,400 ballots—were never opened, and therefore that the ballots were never examined, much less painstakingly examined by the commissioners.

Yet the decision's annexes show that there were ballots from four of those unopened ballot boxes (favoring Cuaresma) that were invalidated, while the ballots from the 21 other (unopened) ballot boxes, per the decision, were not invalidated because the First Division did not find any ballot marked or written by one person. Amazing how the commissioners involved could have examined ballots from boxes that remain sealed up to the present. Bionic eyes?

How much more evidence do our leaders need before they take concrete action to reform the Comelec? Or is the Comelec merely a reflection of their wishes?

A parable for our time

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

RUMORS OF A COUP ATTEMPT IN THE NEXT few days are rife and military authorities apparently are not dismissing them lightly. Unverified reports say that there seems to be a struggle for over-all leadership among those who propose to lead the coup attempt. The continuing struggle, it is said, is what is holding them back, and among the contenders are politicians.

As I have written before, an attempt at a military takeover with civilian elements would set back this country tremendously, at a time when economic gains are being made and investors are looking at the Philippines favorably. Not the least of these gains is the decision of Calpers, the California-based pension fund which is the largest in the world and regarded as the weather vane of investment fund managers, to keep its investments in our country. There just isn't enough justification for resorting to a violent overthrow of the government such as in a coup d'etat.

As the founder of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, the oldest NGO that is devoted to the welfare of families of ordinary soldiers killed or permanently disabled in action, I will perhaps be allowed to plead in behalf of the ordinary soldiers. In past coup attempts, they were the ones who suffered the most. The politicians who are also being tempted by these coup plotters with the promise to put them in the ruling junta may not be realistic. Once the military hotheads get to power, they'll throw them out and keep power exclusively in their own hands. It's good to remember John F. Kennedy's words: "He who rides on the back of the tiger ends up inside."

* * *

A few weeks ago, my husband and I attended the inauguration of Philex Mining Corp.'s last mining level for that area in Benguet, a 780 meter-level mining for gold and copper. The officers of Philex, led by its chair Walter Brown and Ernest Villaluna, president and chief operating officer, respectively, were very upbeat about the operational challenges it would face at that level. But perhaps their attitude is best epitomized by the parable narrated by Eulalio "Euls" Austin Jr., Philex vice president for operations and resident manager, a Mountain Province-educated career company officer who rose from the bottom rank:

Once there was a man who had four sons, and he wanted them to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent each on a quest—to go and look at a pear tree a great distance away. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the youngest in fall. When they all returned, the father called them and asked them to describe what they saw. The first son found the pear tree ugly, bent and twisted. The second son said no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third disagreed, saying it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and was the most beautiful and graceful thing he ever saw. The last son disagreed with all his brothers, saying it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and excitement.

The father explained to his sons that they were all correct, because they had each seen only one season in the tree's life. He told them they cannot judge a tree or a person on the basis of what they see in only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy and love that come from that life can only be measured when all the seasons have been experienced. If you give up when it's winter, he said, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer and the fulfillment of your fall season.

Said Euls Austin: "The moral of the story is, don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come sooner or later."

This parable could apply to our nation's life. Behind the dark political clouds hovering over our nation, the sun will surely break through.

* * *

I should make a correction on my column last Thursday regarding our dialogue with Antique Bishop Romulo de la Cruz. I argued that the bishops may not find in the Garci tapes the "truth" about the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory, inasmuch as their source has never been established and they have been tampered with. Instead the truth may be better served in the current revision of ballots in Cebu being undertaken by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal composed of Supreme Court justices. The PET has already finished opening 30 percent of the ballots, in connection with the electoral protest of Loren Legarda against Noli de Castro. The Vice President's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who is also GMA's lawyer, told me weeks back, that so far no significant anomaly has surfaced to challenge GMA's 1.02 million-vote margin over Fernando Poe Jr. in Cebu (not 1.2 million, as erroneously stated here; 1.2 million was her winning margin nationwide). If as Macalintal said, the PET revision is completed this May with no significant anomaly turning up, I told Bishop De la Cruz that perhaps this could be the "closure" the bishops are looking for.

* * *

My husband and I spent Valentine's evening watching the Andy Williams show at the Araneta Coliseum. His hair was all white and his stage movements were much slower, but Andy Williams' voice still boomed throughout the coliseum and he hit all the notes—in contrast to the immortal Frank Sinatra's performance here years ago, when he was already croaking on the high notes. Williams belted out all-time favorites like "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," "The Impossible Dream," "Moon River" and "My Funny Valentine," and his appeal cut through generations. He also brought along a fabulous band, and for the Pinoy audience, its most popular member was a young Mexican female drummer whom he dubbed "the best drummer in the world." It was a great Valentine treat.

Shattering the stereotype

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHENEVER PEOPLE TALK ABOUT ABORTION in the Philippines, the common notion is that the majority of the estimated 400,000 abortions performed in this country yearly are done on young women, who seek the procedure because they or their parents seek to cover up their "shame" and avoid social embarrassment.

But a new study on the incidence of clandestine abortion in the Philippines lays that stereotype to rest. The Allan Guttmacher Institute, which conducted the study in collaboration with the UP Population Institute, has found that the majority of women undergoing induced abortion in the country are Catholic mothers with three or more children, married and/or living in with a partner.

The study, which will formally be released in April, found that 9 out of every 10 women undergoing abortion are married or in a consensual union; half reside in an urban setting; more than half already have at least three children; and the vast majority are Catholic. (To those who say that of course the majority will be Catholic because majority of Filipinos are Catholic, Dr. Cory Raymundo of the Institute for Maternal and Child Health says that even if you divide the respondents according to religion, a greater proportion of Catholics still resort to abortion than those belonging to other faiths.)

Of course, there is still quite a large number of "young women in trouble" seeking abortion. The study noted that 46 percent of attempted abortions in the Philippines are sought by young women age 24 and below. Another finding is that while the majority (7 out of 10) have had either a high school or college level education, the majority of women seeking abortion are also poor.

* * *

THE PROFILE of the "typical" client of abortionists should shatter the common belief that women seek to terminate their pregnancies solely out of "selfish" motives, a desire to regain lost honor or simply return to maidenhood.

Interviews done with women who have undergone abortion indicate that they are often forced to have the procedure by an untimely or unplanned pregnancy which threatens their health, or the health and survival of their children. At a press conference yesterday, Rhodora Roy Raterta, executive director of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), cited a study in the Visayas which found that a great number of women seeking abortion were nursing babies below one year old.

"Given the high rates of unmet need, that is, Filipino women wanting to space births or have less children but are unable to practice family planning, this trend is not surprising but it is also very alarming," Raterta, who is also chair of the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), added.

In 2003, the National Health Demographic Survey (NDHS) pegged unmet need at 45 percent among women who said they did not want a child in the next two years, or wanted no more children but were either using no contraceptive method at all or were using a traditional method.

* * *

THE SAME Allan Guttmacher Institute/UPPI study also pegged the estimated number of abortions annually at the slightly higher number of 473,000 or 27 per 100,000 women, indicating a rising incidence of the procedure, even if it is illegal and therefore commonly unsafe and unregulated. Indeed, it is believed that unsafe abortion accounts for a large percentage of the total number of women dying from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth each year.

This is one reason reproductive health advocates among legislators are pushing HB 3773, which seeks to "provide adequate and relevant reproductive health services and information to the people."

Reacting to a rally mounted by an anti-family planning group where claims were made that contraceptives equal abortion, Rep. Edcel Lagman, the principal sponsor of the measure, issued a statement asserting that contraception in fact "prevents unwanted, unplanned and mistimed pregnancies which are the ones that are terminated."

"The correct and consistent use of contraceptives prevents the incidence of abortion," Lagman noted. He cited the example of Russia and Eastern and Central Europe where abortion rates dropped by up to 50 percent because of the increased use of modern contraception. In Turkey, a shift from the use of traditional (withdrawal and rhythm) to modern methods of contraception accounted for 87 percent of the decline in abortion, while a survey conducted in Kazakhstan revealed that by increasing modern contraception use by a mere 10 percent, the general abortion rate dropped by 13 percent.

As Lagman asserts: "What pushes women to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is the lack of access to and information about effective contraception. The claim that contraceptive use will lead to abortion is pure hogwash."

* * *

GIVEN the controversy and the seemingly endless and tiresome debates about contraception and its link to abortion, perhaps it's timely that the country will be hosting the First International Conference on Reproductive Health Management from May 3-5.

At a press conference yesterday, Raymundo, who is co-chair of the conference's program sub-committee (with Tomas Osias of the Population Commission), said the conference seeks to place reproductive health management within the context of community development, maximizing the potential of individuals and groups to manage the reproductive health needs of their communities. Indeed, the theme of the conference is "Creating Impact in Communities."

The meet, which will draw reproductive health advocates and workers from around the world, "will take a closer look at how reproductive health interventions or initiatives have made a positive difference in the lives of people in specific communities."

Passage to India*

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE ARE REALLY TWO INDIAS. ONE IS THE booming India of Apple iPod Shuffles, pharmaceuticals, IT expertise, software, textiles and organic chemicals emerging as a global player. The other end is the India of spectacular ruins redolent of lost civilizations, vanquished kings, monuments to lost loves and legends of unbelievable wealth. While the first India attracts investors and buyers of fabulous handicrafts, it is the second India that sings a siren song to the traveler in search of exotic cultures or the pilgrim in pursuit of answers.

Although most people are aware that India has 1.1 billion inhabitants, it still comes as something of a shock to arrive in Delhi at midnight and find the highway clogged with vehicles as though it were the middle of the day. This is certainly a city that doesn't sleep. And why should it? India is trying to make up for all those years of slow growth. The country that was on the brink of bankruptcy in 1991 has made such remarkable progress that its economy is now the fourth largest in the world.

One of the things that should interest Filipinos is that its present president, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is an aeronautical engineer. That's right, he's not a lawyer, nor was he ever a TV host or a movie actor. He is the author of five books, one of which has been translated into Chinese, Russian and Korean, and has two books of poems to his credit. We have much to learn from the Indians.

If you only have a limited amount of time in India, most travel agents will tell you to take the Golden Triangle route, which means Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, a tour that gives you an all-too-brief taste of the country and leaves you hankering for more. While Delhi is a relatively young city (in comparison to the country's 5,000 years of history), having been founded by Shah Jahan in the 17th century in order to move his capital from Agra, its history stretches back to the Mahabharata when it was known as Indraprastha. The city we see today is its eighth incarnation, the capital of India since 1931.

Legend says that whoever builds a new city in Delhi will lose it, and so they did, including the British whose reign is only a hiccup in time if you think of a history dating back 5,000 years.

Delhi is often described as a city of monuments, with 1,300 officially declared historically important and probably the preservationists' and restorers' nightmare. Almost everywhere you turn, you catch a glimpse of some crumbling monument or ancient ruin, and as you travel around the city, you find yourself shifting back and forth in time. There is a construction boom in Delhi. New buildings and cities are going up everywhere, and dust turns trees and shrubs and flowers dusty white. But whenever you alight from your vehicle, the past catches up with you.

The pile-up of centuries and cultures is overwhelming. In the old walled city of Shahjahanabad, you find the fine architecture of Mughul times in the Kashemere and the Ajmeri Gates. Your guide will take you to the Red Fort or Lal Quila, as the Indians call it. It extends for two kilometers and took 10 years to build. Shah Jahan who had started its construction in 1638 was imprisoned and deposed by his son before he could move his capital. It has been called the single most famous monument and although the Peacock Throne, which once stood in the Diwan-i-Khas (the Hall of Special Audience), is long gone, its reputation as the costliest single treasure made in the last 1,000 years lingers. It was created out of 1,150 kilos of gold and 230 kilos of precious stones. In today's currency, it would be worth nearly $1 billion.

The fort looms over Chandni Chowk, the colorful market that forms the main street of the old Delhi. Aside from its varied and high-quality goods, there are also along its two-kilometer stretch places of worship for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Jainists. It is also hopelessly congested with an astonishing number and types of vehicles and people.

But what is India without the Taj Mahal, the famous monument to love? It took us six hours to get to Agra one groggy early morning, but the snake charmers and the dancing bears along the route soon woke us up. The famous mausoleum was also a creation of Shah Jahan, and it took him 20 years to build with 20,000 laborers. Artisans from all over India and as far as Turkey and Persia were brought over to work on the inlay, the calligraphy and to carve stones and lay out the gardens. It has agates from Yemen, corals from Arabia, onyx from Persia.

Is it worth seeing? Definitely and more so by moonlight when it shimmers in the silvery light.

Jaipur, however, has much more to offer than Agra. There are several museums, including the City Palace that contains an art gallery (miniature paintings with pigments that used ground rubies, semi-precious stones and gold), a collection of princely costumes and ancient manuscripts. I have to confess though that I was bowled over by a giant chess set in the gardens of Rambagh Palace, once the residence of Sawai Man Singh II, the last Maharajah of Jaipur. Players once upon a time faced each other while servants moved the huge pieces fashioned after Indian nobles and elephants. And all the time I thought the giant chess set was an invention of JK Rowling in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Turns out the Indians were there first.

(*with apologies to EM Forster)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Grudge fight

YOUNG BLOOD

Arden Rod Condez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I WAS IN MEXICO WHEN MANNY PACQUIAO FOUGHT Erik Morales for the second time. I had gone there on a month-long vacation so I could be with my mother who is now married to a 70-year-old El Mariachi who can pass for my great-granddad.

My mom and Papa Alejandro live in the medieval town of Pastrana, 25 miles southeast of the city of Guadalajara. Pastrana is much older than Pandan, Antique, where I come from, just as Mexico is a hundred or more years older than the Philippines.

Mexicans are a happy people, very much like Filipinos. There are national holidays and fiestas being celebrated almost every month of the year and every other day is some saint's feast day. But when Pacquiao defeated Morales, Mexicans mourned and sang dirges all day. Apparently, even Grammy Award winner Jon Secada could not bring luck to "El Terrible."

On the day of the fight, I decided to go to a cheap local cantina named Casa Comeda, where Pastrana's *tambay* hang out every day to brighten up their monotonous lives with poorly made but strong sangria. Instead of tortillas and chili cons, the menu for the day was the rematch between Pacman and El Terrible. I knew that I would be the only Filipino around and this thought was bound to inhibit me from cheering for our champion as much as I wanted. But I also knew that if Pacman would win, I would be the only one rejoicing there. And then I would be the Pacquiao of the pueblo.

The scene at the restaurant was typically Mexican, except for the 21-year-old lad from the Philippines. There, a small crowd of mostly old men had gathered and their eyes glued to the TV set. But instead of football, they were all watching a boxing match.

Filipinos and Mexicans share the same passion for boxing. No wonder Pacman counts three great Mexican boxers among the fighters he has beaten. He has stood in the way of Mexico's dream of ruling his weight division.

Mexico is just a little more progressive than the Philippines economically. Going to their provinces and towns is like going to a Latin American version of the Philippines. You see little kids playing in the streets all day until their skin turns brown. Many boys in both countries see boxing as their way out of poverty.

In many Philippine provinces, boys learn to box at a very early age because they think fighting is the surest way to earn some money—even big money. Their bodies hardened from working in the farm or the sea, they are quickly prepared for the boxing ring.

In our town in Antique, every boy looks forward to the town fiesta because by tradition that is when an amateur boxing tournament is held. For a hundred pesos or two, little boys are willing to risk getting black eyes or having their lips busted. The one who comes out the winner of the tournament is hailed as a champion throughout the year. At a very young age, boys learn that success can be attained through fighting.

Fighting in the ring is every young man's rite of passage to manhood in our town. Anyone who has never worn a boxing glove must be gay, and no father wants a sissy for a son. That is why when they have their fill of cockfights, fathers love to see their boys fight each other in the backyard, even just for the heck of it.

My dad fought with liver cancer and lost. He last saw me wearing boxing gloves when I was in 2nd grade and a kid who was a year younger beat me. For a long time, I could not understand why my father treated me as if I were worthless after that defeat. But now I understand. He suffered more than me, with all the ribbing he got. A son no matter how much he has detached himself from his father remains a part of him.

That defeat marked me as a loser. I didn't excel in high school. I finished college, but not before failing in three subjects. And now I am lost in a sea of hopefuls looking for jobs in the big city. I am a failure and my failure to land a job brought me to Mexico with the faint hope that after a vacation maybe my luck would change.

My mother is a better fighter. Look at her: she even ventured into Mexico to find another husband.

As I entered Casa Comeda, I immediately felt as if I myself were entering the ring. I could sense strange eyes peering at me with great curiosity, if not disdain. Watching Pacquiao on TV together with Mexicans who were cheering for Morales made me feel like a loser all over again. I was not the strongest kid; I was not the smartest student. I was just a young man unsure of his destiny. I was not the *bida*. Everyone was cheering for my opponent since all those around me were sure I could never win.

The first rounds made me shake with worry. Sweat quickly covered my body. However, from the sixth round until the knockout round, my voice could be heard all over Mexico. I did not care if I was not from the place. All I cared about was that I had won the battle after suffering many defeats. I was Pacman. I was the man. And I wanted to rush to my father and tell him I had won at last.

The Philippines was conquered by Spain once, Pacquiao was beaten by Morales once, and me, I had been beaten several times. "The Battle Part 2" was sweet revenge.

My father taught me that life is a boxing ring. You have your strongest punches to knock out failure. And just like in boxing, you have to have rhythm. You should know how, where and when to punch and how to dodge or parry life's blows.

But one thing my father did not teach me—and the thing I learned from "The Battle Part 2"—is that the most critical fight is the fight for revenge. The real fighter is the fighter who has been knocked out at least once, and picks himself up to fight again and win.

Arden Rod Condez, 21, is a graduate in Broadcast Communication/Literature of the University Philippines Visayas in Miagao, Iloilo.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Mining not meant to satisfy bottomless greed for profit

AS A REACTION TO THE STATEMENT of Patrick Caoile, treasurer of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association (PDI, 2/7/06), allow us to say that the position of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on the mining issue is a result of its extensive reflection on matters affecting the people's quality of life.

It is clearly an exercise of the Church's so-called "prophetic ministry"—something that the Church ought to do more often in these trying times. Exercising such ministry is not a violation of the principle of separation of Church and State.

Caoile muddled the issue by saying that the bishops were trying to demonize the mining industry. He then proceeded to liken them to the friars in Rizal's time. If Caoile would only review the lessons of history on how foreign business interests aggravated instead of helping improve the lives of ordinary Filipinos, he would clearly understand that the bishops have a valid point in calling for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995.

We cannot see how a law further liberalizing the mining industry and containing onerous and unjust provisions that cater more to the interests of profit-oriented foreign mining firms (100-percent profit repatriation, tax exemptions and holidays, etc.) can help improve the lives of the majority of Filipinos—particularly our indigenous brothers and sisters whose ancestral rights are the first to be taken over by mining concessionaires—and how our already fragile environment can be effectively protected and rehabilitated with the entry of more profit-driven mining firms. To be sure, there will be economic development through mining, but whose will it be?

Lastly, Caoile cites a biblical passage but in a wrong context. He should have quoted it on the premise that people who till, nurture and protect the land for sustainability are assured of God's blessings. Natural resources are never intended to be used just to satisfy the bottomless greed and lust for profit.

—NOEL NOLI CAPULONG,
coordinator,
Southern Tagalog Environmental Action Movement,
134 Elepano I, Barangay 3,
Calamba City

Why not tax the meddlesome Catholic bishops?

I REFER TO BELINDA OLIVARES-Cunanan's column. (PDI, 2/2/06) I totally agree with her when she bemoaned the Catholic bishop's call for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995. She rightly says that by developing our God-given resources properly, we can develop our economy for the benefit of the millions of Filipinos living in dire poverty.

I really do not understand the bishops' fear: new and cleaner mining technology is now available.

I have seen a lot of bishops dipping their hands into politics these past months, and now their hands are into economic matters. This only reminds me of the friars in José Rizal's time.

With our present-day bishops meddling too much in government affairs, molesting young boys and enriching themselves with people's money, I can't help but wonder what Rizal would be doing if he were alive today.

What if we just introduce a law that will tax all their income (including people's donations), all their profits from fund-raising activities and real estate businesses, and all their real estate holdings, and use the taxes collected from them to uplift the lives of their parishioners, instead of leaving them free to remit the bulk of their daily collections to the Vatican?

—DENNIS SY PLATA,
president,
First Multi-Area Properties Co.,
219 Amethyst Ave.,
Greenheights Subd.,
San Bartolome, Novaliches, QC

LETTERS

No room for lazy gov't employees

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO A news item, titled "Under government rationalization, lazy employees will remain." (PDI, 1/16/05) The report cited concerns about the program failing to weed out "inept, lazy and absentee" government employees.

The Rationalization Program is like putting one's house in order. It is done only after a strategic review has been conducted by the departments/agencies of the executive branch of their respective operations and organizations, with the end-view of eliminating or minimizing overlaps and duplications in the delivery of government services; and of focusing government efforts and resources on its vital/core services.

In other words, the program, in general, may not directly address the problem regarding "inept, lazy and absentee" government employees. However, being function-based and not people-based, it has other mechanisms/strategies to respond to this particular concern.

Specifically, the government is introducing a performance-based management system that would align individual performance goals with the organization's strategic goals/vision. This is aimed at creating a culture of collective (agency) and individual efficiency, effectiveness, productivity and accountability in the bureaucracy.

—LAURA B. PASCUA,
undersecretary, Department of Budget and Management

Crowd control and precautions

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SHARE the following points regarding crowd control. There are two essential aspects of crowd control: one is expectations management; the other is emergency preparedness.

Everyone who comes to a venue expects to be allowed in at the appointed time and to have the best seat or view available. If these are not met, chances are irritation will set in, and when multiplied through the crowd, mob mentality follows. Those responsible for the venue and the event have a responsibility to make sure that these expectations are met; otherwise, they have a responsibility to tell all concerned the reasons for such failure, and what measures are being taken.

Unforeseen circumstances can and do occur, and in any place where there is a crowd, the worst that could happen should be expected. Therefore, there should be preparations for any eventuality. These can be anything from first aid treatment to an individual, or evacuation procedures involving everybody. It is therefore imperative that there are always capable personnel to handle all these concerns.

At the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the venues under its supervision (which include the Folk Arts Theater, Manila Film Center and open air spaces), every producer and lessee is required to utilize the in-house ushers, all of whom are trained in first aid procedures, including CPR, as well as evacuation procedures. In certain instances, producers and lessees may also be required to provide ambulances and fire trucks on stand by. In one show at the Folk Arts Theater some years back, water cannons were used to push back audiences jostling to get into the already filled venue. Security personnel in all entrance and exit points, as well as in public areas, were beefed up.

It may be a small measure of recognition of the efficiency and effectiveness of these procedures that the CCP's venue management staff have been hired to manage crowd control in many other venues, including the PhilSports Arena, over the years.

Organizers of similar events and show producers may do well to look into these and other similar precautions in preparation for future events.

—DENNIS N. MARASIGAN,
assistant vice president,
Cultural Center of the Philippines,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Only ourselves to blame

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE editorial on the "Wowowee" tragedy. (PDI, 2/7/06)

Aren't we a rich country pretending to be poor? Didn't Rizal write about his own beloved countrymen's indolence? Weren't we second to Japan way back in the 1960s in terms of economic development? How come Vietnam—and probably soon, Cambodia and even Laos—is now economically ahead of us, such that we now import rice from that country? Where are we heading? We tend to point accusing fingers at anyone but ourselves.

People everywhere, even in highly developed economies, such as the United States and Japan, get crazy over lotteries and game shows. But here, we have this penchant for quick money and quick fixes, because that has been ingrained in our psyche, so much so we even praise to high heavens public officials who get to join the "nouveau riche" club, even if they were able to do so only after having looted government coffers. But have we sent any of them to jail? And to think valuable taxpayers' money is spent in "investigations in aid of legislation"!

True, that killer stampede is a wake-up call—another one that will be again forgotten soon. But we cannot go on blaming just the poor or the show's production staff. Even if I am not a Willie Revillame fan, I would say we have only ourselves to blame as much. Let us look around us. Could those snakes coming out of their lairs be indicating something more dreadful? The only way is to help ourselves and get rid of our "crisis of conscience" and the "dole-out mentality" that has stricken us.

"Sa Diyos ang awa nasa tao ang gawa." At sa gawa hindi kasama ang gambling *at* mendicancy. And politics as a means to riches.

God bless us!

—OMAR ABUBAKRE HASHIM ABDULHAMID,
Cotabato City

Unwarranted publication

I DON'T THINK THAT PUBLISHing the photo of the purported illegitimate child of Manny Pacquaio was in good taste. You should have at least blurred his face.

He is a sitting duck now to lawless elements. An innocent child exposed to danger just because he is the child of Pacquiao.

—ROD SANTOS,
rodsjsantos@yahoo.com

We did blur (pixelize) his face.—Ed.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kosho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		TBA		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginig		Little Big Star	Komiks		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Jumanji				When Animals Attack		Gamemax	E Buzz	The 4400 (Season 2)		Fear Factor		Fear		Charlie's Angels			
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	X-Men Evolution	Teen Titans	Superman The Animated Series	Scooby-Doo & The Alien Invaders			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Xiaolin Showdown	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Cinema One	Mano Mano 3				Kaya				My Movie Hulk (6.45 PM)				Love Notes				Premonition		
Cinemax			Don't Talk To Strangers			Trucks								Against The Ropes				Into The Sun (10:50PM)	
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News/Quest	Next@CNN/Global Office/CNN Business Traveler	World News	Int'l Correspondents/Inside The Middle East	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Zero Hour		New Detectives		Crime Stories		A Haunting		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pool: Snooker World Pool League '05 Poland		Winter X Games Classic	Winter X Games X Day [illegible] Aspen Co. USA			World Pool Masters '01		World Pool Masters '01		Mosconi Cup '01		World Snooker Your Grand Prix					
ETC		Love Shack		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Beauty & The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videoscapade/ [illegible]		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss? II	Who's The Boss? II	Brush With Fate			Gentle Ben: Terror On The Mountain				McBride: Murder Past Midnight				King Solomon's Mines			King Solomon's Mines (10:35PM)		
HBO			Tough Guys Don't Dance				Thoughtcrimes			Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow				Seed Of Chucky			Dreamcatcher		
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Powerhopper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Songs		Japan Video Topics		Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Bantay Ozone Layer		
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	X-Play	Cinematech	Bottomline		Raw				Family Guy	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Email Live		Iron Chef America			Merge	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	E! Extra: Jackie Collins Presents: Hitched in Hollywood	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Making The Movie: Aeon Flux	Bling # 101	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV2: Korn's See You on the Other Side	Backstage Pass: Linkin Park	Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		The Astounding World		Frontiers Of Construction				Be The Creature		Built For The Kill		Dangerous Encounters		The Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang		Made In Hong Kong		Stuntmen Of Bollywood	
NBN				[illegible] League		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN				Cue Masters	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Chalkzone	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			[illegible]				Magdalene Youth Home				Zocalo				Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon				Paloma
QTV		Kiddy Grade		Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupie TV	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pinoy Sports Idol	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Man & Machine		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		MMTLBA Basketball				NBA Jam	GWS 07-2000	NBA TV Live Pre Rookie Challenge				2006 NBA Rookie Challenge					NBA TV Insiders Special All-Star Player		
Sports Plus			5th Samsung Golf Champ	PAC 10 Basketball UCLA vs Oregon St.				World Poker Tour 2				Ultimate Fighting Championship Special						Nissan Open Day 2	
Star Movies			Six Days Seven Nights (3:45 PM)				Small Soldiers				Cheaper By The Dozen (7:20 PM)			King Arthur				True Lies (11:05PM)	
Star World		[illegible] American Idol 2006		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		The Chronicle: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gilmore Girls (7:50 PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				

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INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Chinese Ilonggos embrace heritage

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

MARIVIC PARCON WAS raised well by her Chinese parents who tried to acquaint her to the many facets of Chinese culture, including its work ethic.

Every weekend, she helped out in the grocery run by her parents to earn her allowance in elementary and high school.

Parcon now teaches Chinese languages at the Iloilo Chinese Commercial High School (ICCHS) in Iloilo City. These days, she says Chinese Ilonggo parents are more lenient.

Instead of making their children tend shops, parents encourage them to excel in school, compete in academics and athletics, and become successful in their careers.

Parcon named a few famous alumni of the ICCHS—entrepreneur and recording artist Jose Mari Chan and basketball stars Yves Dignadice and James Yap, more famous as the boyfriend of Kris Aquino.

Other successful alumni may not be in the spotlight but are working in government, banks, hospitals, churches and schools in the country and elsewhere.

While of Chinese descent, they proudly say they are Filipinos or Chinoys (Chinong Pinoy or Chinese Filipinos), or even Chinese Ilonggos because they knew no other home than Iloilo.

During the Jan. 31 fourth Chinese New Year celebration in Iloilo City, the Chinese Ilonggos' history, culture and contribution were feted anew. This year, Iloilo ceased to claim to have the only public celebration of the Chinese New Year outside Metro Manila.

Other cities, such as Cebu and Bacolod, have been holding theirs since 2003.

As in previous years, the schools have taken the lead in ushering in the Year of the Fire Dog. They are the ICCHS, Ateneo de Iloilo/Sta. Maria Catholic School, Sun Yat Sen High School, and the Colegio de Sagrado Corazon de Jesus.

Dance history

The ICCHS performed in dances a history of the Qin Dynasty in 221 BC that became a turning point in Chinese history. The dynasty unified the warring states, standardized writing, language and currency, and built the Great Wall of China.

Another dance presentation portrayed the Terra Cotta Warriors, or the famous 6,000 clay soldiers found in a burial site in China.

Carmen Santos, principal of the ICCHS, said the presentation would remind Chinese Ilonggos of their legacy and help teach Chinese history to Filipinos.

"There are lessons to be learned from the history of China that can be applied today," said Philippe John Sopacio, who researched and wrote the dance theater.

While the history of China is well-recorded and easily retrieved from books and chronicles, little has been written about the Chinese Ilonggo history that can be shared or put into dance.

Santos and Sopacio said local Chinese Ilonggo historians must piece together accounts, documents and life stories on how the Chinese came to Iloilo and why they stayed. Some local historians have written about Chinese Ilonggos but not extensively.

Archeological records showed that trading between Iloilo and the Chinese started between 960 AD and 1279 but Chinese settlers did not arrive until the Spaniards had colonized Iloilo in the 16th century. A Spanish royal decree issued on July 17, 1679 established a *parian*, or Chinese district in Iloilo City, on what is now Avancena Street in Molo District.

Chinatown

Pieces of evidence of Chinese influence abound in the city's economy and these are found in the streets of J.M. Basa, Iznart and Aldeguer that form a triangle. The area is the central business district and the unofficial 'Chinatown.

But Chinese Ilonggo business leaders, led by Felipe Uygongco, said instead of calling it Chinatown, they want the place declared Chinese Filipino Cultural Center.

Long before malls and air-conditioned shopping enclaves appeared, the central business district was the busiest and liveliest shopping area in the city. By giving it a place in the Chinese Ilonggo history, it could be saved from becoming a retail slum.

Bazaars, small shops, hardware stores and restaurants flank both sides of the streets. Many of these are owned by Chinese Ilonggos who weathered the competition from malls, ironically owned also by Chinese Filipinos, by selling goods at lower prices.

One of the popular shops is Botica China, a drugstore that has antique wooden shelves and a metal scale used for weighing Chinese drugs. It has glass counters displaying cough syrups, candies and treats, slimming teas, whitening facial creams and powders, and aphrodisiacs.

Its owner, who begged anonymity, said the drugstore was a family business before she was born. While Chinese medicines are not a hit, the store, like many others in the area, survives because of loyal customers and buyers looking for alternative medicines.

"Discipline, hard work, and a will to serve made us what we are today," said Parcon. "These traits are Chinese but they are also Filipino."

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Sierra Madre illegal logging goes on unabated, says group

LUCENA CITY—A CHURCH GROUP IN NORTHERN QUEZON denounced continued illegal logging in Sierra Madre and compiled video footage to support its report that poachers operate with impunity in the forests of the mountain range.

"We have recent video footage showing freshly cut trees right in the bosom of Sierra Madre. The footage would belie the claim of the DENR and their illegal logging partners that what has been transported out of the forest were retrieved old logs remnants of the 2004 calamity," said Fr. Pete Montallana, chair of Task Force Sierra Madre-Infanta.

He said the video footage were taken by three Agta tribe members and a representative from the Social Action Center of the Prelature of Infanta in Sitio Baykuran, Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar town at the foot of the Sierra Madre.

Montallana said his group would submit the video footage to an independent fact-finding body to prove that officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are in cahoots with illegal loggers in the Sierra Madre.

The priest, also coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and director of the Tribal Center for Development, said the group was willing to lend copies of the video footage to TV stations or concerned officials.

This, he said, would show that despite recent calamities, illegal logging continues in the Sierra Madre.

"The sight of freshly-felled mature trees is reprehensible. It's an ominous sign of more calamities to come if the rape of the forest would go on unchecked," Montallana said.

In November 2004, after four successive typhoons, close to 1,000 people died in killer floods and landslides that destroyed millions of pesos worth of property in Quezon and Aurora.

Massive logging in the Sierra Madre was blamed for the tragedy.

In a Feb. 6 letter to the task force, Antonio Principe, DENR regional director, said the DENR allowed the retrieval and sale of trees that had been uprooted or felled earlier in the Sierra Madre, but not the cutting of trees.

"We have not allowed and will not allow further cutting of trees in the area unless those with licenses could secure clearance from higher authorities," Principe said.

Principe said last year that there were no more retrievable logs in Sierra Madre after several aerial surveys of the Sierra Madre.

"Why the sudden emergence of retrievable and drifted logs? Where did they come from?" Montallana asked.

General Nakar Mayor Leovigildo Rozul said his policemen confiscated two truckloads of freshly cut logs on Jan. 13.

The mayor said the cargo is owned by Thelma Aumentado, a tribal leader believed engaged in illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

She could not present any permit to cut trees, the mayor added. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Militants seek cop help vs Army

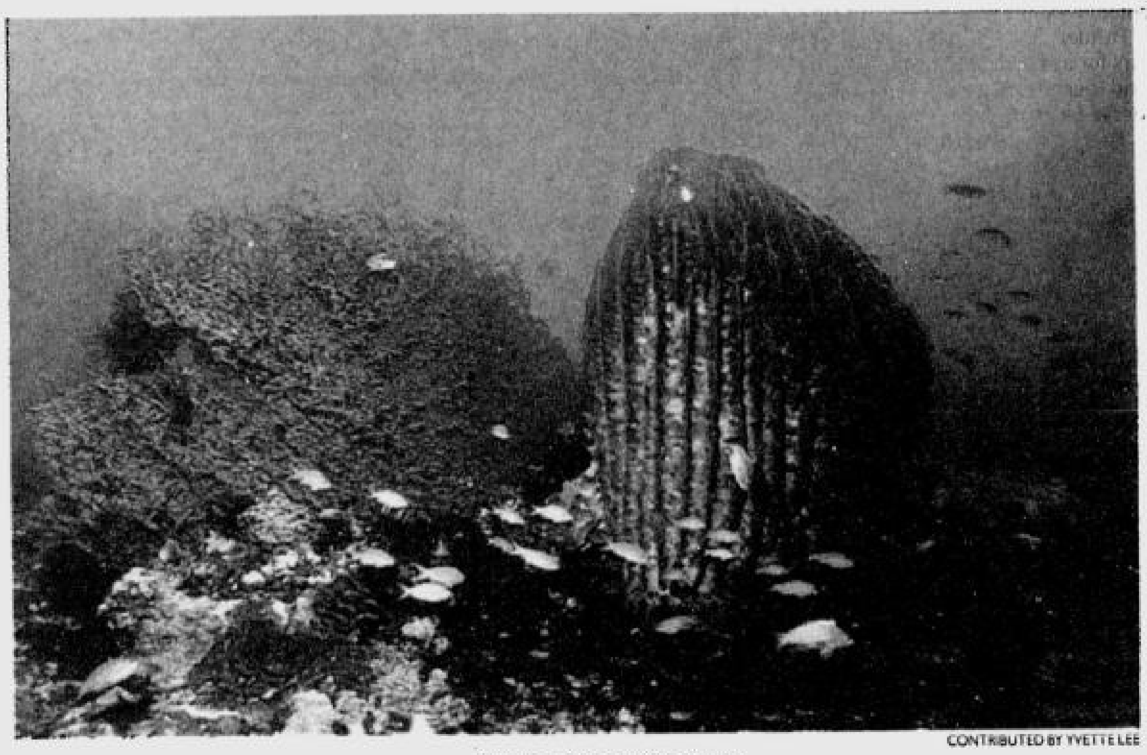
BAGUIO CITY—MEMBERS OF MILITANT groups here sought police protection after they reported cases of burglary, harassment and intimidation, supposedly by military agents.

Leaders of Bayan Muna, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Tongtongan ti Umili and Cordillera Human Rights Alliance said they were alarmed by the increasing incidents of harassment and surveillance of their members in Baguio City.

Jeanette Galvez, deputy secretary general of Tongtongan ti Umili, said unidentified men, who they believed were military agents, tried to break into the offices of militant organizations and the houses of its leaders and members in various occasions last year and in January this year.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said the accusation hurled at the military was unfair.

"Making the complaint public is being unfair," Monta said in a telephone interview. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



CONTRIBUTED BY YVETTE LEE

ANILAO SHOOT OUT
The rich coral reefs of Anilao was the venue of the first Mabini Annual Digital Underwater Shoot out (MAD about US) to be held starting today until Feb. 25. Interested photographers can contact their favorite Anilao resort for contest rules and information.

Subanens reject entry of China mining firm

PAGADIAN CITY—TRIBAL LEADERS in Zamboanga del Sur have rejected the entry of a Chinese mining firm into their ancestral domain.

The company, Geotechnique and Mines Inc. (Gami), wants to explore three Subanen villages in Midsalip town for iron deposits.

Like other Chinese mining firms, Gami has ventured overseas as China's demand for steel grows because of its rapid industrial growth.

This year alone, China's steel demand is expected to increase by 10 percent, according to the China Iron and Steel Association (Cisa).

China produced a total of 349.36 million tons of crude steel from its domestic mines in 2005, up 24.56 percent from a year earlier, according to Cisa.

In rejecting Gami's request, the Subanen leaders said mining would destroy their lives.

In a manifesto signed by at least 34 Subanen leaders, they said that with the rejection, they hoped that Gami would stay away from their villages forever.

Under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra), mining companies could only enter ancestral domain areas if they succeed in securing a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from indigenous communities.

Gami has been trying to convince the Subanens to allow the company to explore prospective mines in Barangays Guinabot, Sigapod and Comarom.

In an earlier consultation with Subanen leaders, Gami representative Francisco Real said the Subanens were to receive a 1 percent share from future operations.

Real said a hospital, school, roads and bridges will be built by the mining firm if the Subanens approved of the firm's proposal to extract iron ore from the tribe's 567-hectare ancestral domain. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BFAR tests say mercury in Sorsogon within limits

SORSOGON'S FISH AND WATER are safe and well within the standard limit for mercury, Bureau of Fish and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) officials said at a public discussion held in Legaspi City.

BFAR's latest findings, disclosed by Edna Tu, head of BFAR's regional laboratory, were consistent with its two earlier tests that in effect said it had always been safe to eat fish from Sorsogon waters near Rapu-Rapu Island.

The test results were quoted by Lafayette Mining Inc. in a press statement.

A previous test was made where fish samples were submitted by Sorsogon-based antimining NGOs to BFAR for analysis. These samples found to have mercury slightly above the standard limit.

BFAR is waiting for the results of another test by next week. The samples were taken late last month.

The latest findings showed that water samples taken from three areas in Prieto Diaz and another from San Ramon, Sorsogon were well below the standard limit for mercury.

Reports coming from antimining parties based in Sorsogon have insisted on mercury contamination and accused Lafayette, which operates in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, as the source.

Lafayette said in its statement that since it does not use mercury in its operations and that Rapu-Rapu Island does not have a mercury problem, it could not have caused the supposed contamination across the sea.

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Quezon legislator says proponents of Cha-cha pulling off tricks to fool people

LUCENA CITY—QUEZON REP. Lorenzo Tañada III assailed the initiative of Congress leaders to enlist the signatures of 195 lawmakers, or two-thirds of the House of Representatives, to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"If the House is really serious [in amending] the Constitution, we must do so through a constitutional convention," Tañada said in a phone interview.

Quoting former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz, Tañada said it is advisable to entrust the overhauling of the Constitution to a constitutional convention, which would "have more time, opportunity and presumably also the needed expertise to discharge it."

Tañada said the changes to the Constitution being proposed by House leaders now would violate people's right to elect who their leaders should be.

"We should not fool the Filipino people with words like political gridlock and constant threat of coup attempts," he said.

"The Filipino people should know that their right to vote will eventually be abolished," the legislator said.

He said although the Constitution needs improvement, it should be to preserve the country's sovereignty, economy and patrimony and exacting accountability from public officers.

In The Netherlands, self-exiled communist founder Jose Maria Sison called the proposal "rotten and extremely harmful" to the Filipino people.

"The proposed amendments do not only serve the political greed of (their proponents) but are a comprehensive attack on the national and democratic rights of the Filipino people," Sison said in a statement e-mailed from Utrecht.

Sison said the planned shift from presidential to a parliamentary form of government is only a scheme to use the so-called transitory provisions to keep Ms Arroyo in power.

He said civil and political liberties will also be curtailed under the new government setup.

The communist leader also warned that under the proposed amendments, Filipinos would be mere labor providers as the proposed changes would allow foreigners 100 percent ownership and control of land, natural resources, public utilities.

He said provisions in the 1987 Charter prohibiting foreign military bases, foreign combat troops and nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction from Philippine territory would also be deleted.

He said the planned Charter change would also render impossible the resumption of peace talks to end the more than three decades of communist rebellion in the country. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

4,000 GIs here for war games on 3 islands

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—ANOTHER batch of about 4,000 American soldiers aboard three ships arrived here on Friday to participate in military exercises with Philippine soldiers.

Capt. Buller Parmer, the US military's information officer here, said the three US Navy ships—USS Essex (LHD2), USS Juneau (LPD 10) and USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49)—will serve as operating platforms for various naval maneuvers and amphibious operations.

Parmer said the ships would stay for as long as they could unload personnel and equipment for the Balikatan.

Their arrival came on the heels of the alleged rape by four US Marines of a 22-year-old Filipina in Subic.

US servicemen in other areas are also being accused of firing at stray dogs and of flying a remote controlled spy plane.

Parmer, however, said the US servicemen would not enjoy "liberty" or rest and recreation privileges during their stay in Subic.

Balikatan 2006 is the 22nd in the series of military exercises between US and Philippine military forces. The exercise will be held simultaneously in Cebu, Luzon and Jolo, Sulu.

The exercise will be conducted in three phases: Humanitarian and civic assistance in Jolo, a combined task force staff exercise in Cebu, and cross training and field training exercises in Luzon.

Parmer said 5,500 US military personnel and 2,800 AFP personnel will participate in the exercise.

Cebu

60 US Marines are in Cebu City for the joint military exercise with the soldiers of the Armed Forces Central Command there.

Centcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam said the US soldiers, who were billeted at the Marriott Hotel, came from military bases in Japan and the Pearl Harbor.

The Americans and 30 military officers, mostly colonels, will participate in the Combined Task Force Staff X.

But the exercises, which starts Feb. 20 and ends Feb. 25, will be purely "theoretical" and done in one of the function rooms of Marriott.

"We will be given hypothetical situations on actual locations and we will solve these on paper based on military doctrines," said Omandam, who is one of the expected participants of the joint military exercise.

On the other hand, Omandam said the US troops wanted to know more about the character of the country's insurgents compared with the other countries.

Jolo

In North Cotabato, the month-long antiterror training involving US Forces in Carmen town ended on Friday, Philippine and US military officials said.

But a similar activity in Sulu is being hounded by problems, including charges of spying and conduct unbecoming of US troops, aside from security threats from extremists.

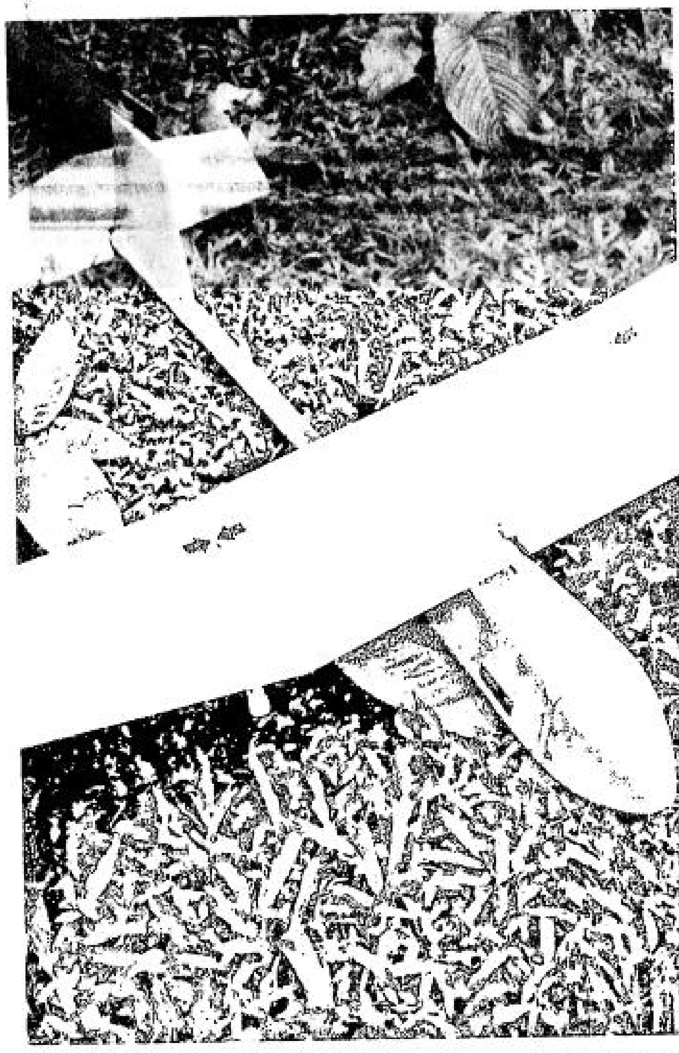
Col. Ruperto Pabustan, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, said at least 35 American servicemen taught about 60 Filipino soldiers lessons on small unit tactics, rifle marksmanship, combat lifesaver training and field training exercises.

In Jolo, US aircraft and Philippine Navy vessels unloaded US servicemen and their equipment yesterday.

The Balikatan starts today.

Lt. Col. Eddie Paruchabutr, spokesperson for the Balikatan-Humanitarian Program in Sulu, said as of Saturday last week alone, about 250 US personnel were already "on the ground."

Paruchabutr said security has become their utmost concern and that they were working closely with Philippine authorities to ensure that "we have adequate security personnel." *Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



THE FALLEN unmanned aerial vehicle. HALID ALI/CONTRIBUTOR

US Army exec rewards finder of spy plane

JOLO, SULU—US MILITARY OFFICIALS gave P50,000 to a Sulu farmer in exchange for the return of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that crashed in Indanan town on Feb. 10.

Jolo councilor Temojen Tulawie said the money was handed to the unidentified farmer on Saturday.

"The money was given through former rebels integrated into the military," Tulawie, also a convenor of the Concerned Citizens of Sulu, said.

Lt. Col. Eddie Paruchabutr, Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines acting spokesperson, confirmed that the UAV had been turned over "by a civilian."

He said the man "came to our camp and he gave the equipment to us."

"We definitely appreciated his action and he was rewarded," he said.

Paruchabutr said the man requested that the amount given not be made public.

The UAV, which Tulawie said was a US spy plane, crashed after hitting a coconut tree in the boundaries of Barangays Buanza and Marang in Patikul town on Feb. 10.

He said residents had initially argued if the falling object they saw was a bird "because its wings were moving."

Some contended it must be a toy.

"But when it fell on the ground after hitting coconut leaves, the residents scampered away because they thought it was a bomb," Tulawie said.

When nothing happened after the object fell, residents went to see what it was and found it was a "small plane."

"We were immediately informed so we went to Indanan," Tulawie said.

He said after he and a companion took photos of the drone, he offered to buy it from the farmer for P5,000.

"He did not take the offer," he said.

Tulawie said he wanted to take possession of the drone "for curiosity sake." *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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MMDA disowns stickers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DON'T THINK HAVING A METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sticker will keep you immune from arrest for a traffic violation.

"The MMDA does not issue stickers especially to *colorum* (illegal) vehicles," said Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC). "These are just like the other fake stickers with the name TMG (Traffic Management Group)," he added. Even top MMDA officials do not have the agency's sticker on their windshields. "You know how enterprising Filipinos are. They would employ all means just to evade apprehension. Using the sticker is just a way of evading arrest," the traffic chief said.

The MMDA-TOC has received reports that motorists, particularly private vehicles illegally operating as public conveyances, were displaying fake MMDA stickers. De Dios said a motorist with the fake sticker should be apprehended, "because most likely, he is hiding something."

Agency officials have yet to identify the source of the fake stickers, but De Dios said they could easily find this out. Drivers or owners of vehicles bearing fake MMDA stickers could be charged with misrepresentation, he added. Displaying the agency's name was tantamount to pretending to be an MMDA employee, De Dios said.

Safety measures in place for extreme stunt show

By Tarra V. Quismundo

RAFFY LERMA

READY to go off the edge, participants practice for a show of courage and daring scheduled tomorrow in Guadalupe, Makati City.

WHEN A GIANT BILLBOARD ALONG EDsa comes alive on Sunday, people will be better off watching the event on television.

This advice was given by the Metro Manila police chief and event organizers to avert an unmanageable turn-out on Sunday night for the staging of an extreme stunt exhibition and rock concert at the busy intersection of Edsa and JP Rizal Street in Barangay Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

"I would advise the people not to watch from the Guadalupe bridge. Of course, we expect that a good number of informal dwellers from nearby areas might want to watch," Director Vidal Querol told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"But what's important is they stay safe," said the regional police chief, who has been implementing stricter safety measures in public events in Metro Manila following the death of 74 people at the stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) on Feb. 4.

The billboard stunt show, the first to be staged in the country, is a promotional activity of the new Rexona Extreme for Men. Brand manager Franz Decloedt said the elaborate advertising event was designed to show men with extreme lifestyles in action, and how the product met their requirements.

"We haven't invited the public. It's a program designed for television with an exclusive audience," said Ed Dames, event director.

He, however, gave the assurance that the event was preparing for the worst scenarios.

"Even if the public is not invited, we're anticipating that they would come anyway, so we're providing security for that. If you compare our expected exclusive audience with the security team, we have more security people. We provide more than enough and we have a backup for our backup," Dames said. He said detailed planning for the event started as early as November.

The show, set to run for almost six hours, would be taped for broadcast, tentatively scheduled for March 12 on ABS-CBN. Brief live reports would be aired tomorrow.

The extreme show was supposed to be held last night, but Querol asked organizers to postpone it to avoid disrupting traffic. He said Friday would have been the worst possible time to hold an event, as traffic in Metro Manila was heaviest on that day.

"I recommended that it be held on Sunday because Friday is always a bad day. It's the worst time, especially if you have an event at 6 p.m., which is the rush hour. And, for sure, if motorists see something not normal, it would hold up traffic," said Querol. The stunt show, which would happen in literal suspension on a 160-ft by 160-ft tarpaulin billboard within the grounds of restaurant Cafe Lupe, would feature professional stuntmen, acrobatic performers, the nine-man Light Reaction Platoon of the NCRPO Regional Special Action Unit, and members of Team Everest, the Philippine expedition team set to climb the world's highest peak next year.

Participants would rappel down the billboard, stage an aerial drum routine, and cross a steep 720-ft zip line from the billboard to the opposite side of Pasig River, part of Mandaluyong City.

Installed on the southbound side of Edsa facing the Pasig River, the billboard could be seen as far as Ortigas from a high rise, or Edsa corner Boni Avenue at ground level, said Alvin Carranza, chief executive officer of MacGraphics Carranz, the private firm that owned the ad space, and also printed and installed the billboard.

Top local acts would entertain the exclusive audience in a rock concert that would last until midnight, atop a stage raised 12 feet from the ground, just across the billboard.The platform was originally raised to a height of 30 feet, but Querol asked that it be lowered so the show would be shielded from public view. Dames said organizers had acquired necessary permits from the Makati and Mandaluyong local governments, and the NCRPO. Paramedics and rescue teams would be on standby. The event area is divided into two emergency zones (north and south), with the quickest routes to hospitals marked.

A 100-man security contingent would cover the event area and perimeter. It includes police, barangay and local public safety officials, who would be posted by the river, the bridge, and a landing platform across Pasig River.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority enforcers will handle traffic management, while 12 men from the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be deployed to watch over outdoor broadcast vans that would cover the event.

"We don't do events we're not confident about. The confidence comes from choosing the right team and the right equipment, which are all top of the line. And in terms of security, everything is covered," said Dames, referring to the multimillion-peso production.

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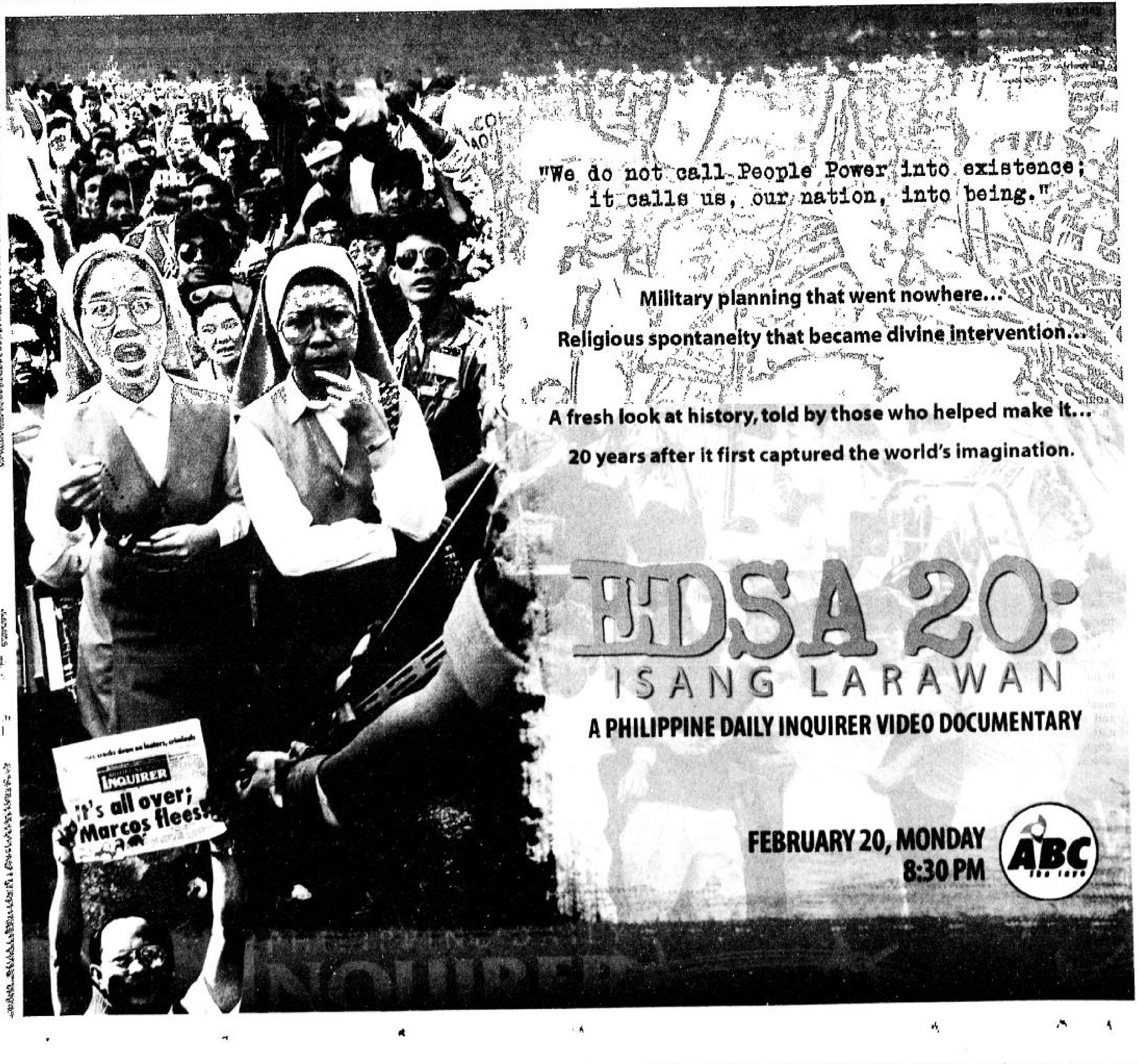
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Thieves cart ₱1.2-M payroll in traffic jam

By DJ Yap

IN A BRAZEN DAYLIGHT ROBBERY, two men on motorcycles made off with P1.245 million in payroll money after pointing a gun at a company executive caught in the middle of a traffic jam in Quezon City the other day.

Milagros Draculan, 54, internal auditor of a realty leasing company, was on board a Toyota Hi-Ace van driven by lawyer Fidel Racasa when they were stuck in traffic at the corner of Boni Serrano and Katipunan Avenues in Barangay Blue Ridge, police said.

Two men approached the van at about 2:15 p.m. and suddenly fired in the direction of the van's right window, said investigator PO3 Joseph Madrid.

One of the men then took at gunpoint a brown envelope on the car floor containing money Draculan had just withdrawn from the Acropolis branch of Metrobank, Racasa said. It was the payroll money for employees of Libra Agro-Industrial Development Corp., Draculan said.

One of the suspects then shot the right front wheel of the van, apparently to prevent the victim from giving chase, before they sped off in a black motorcycle toward Libis, Quezon City, police said.

In a phone interview, Racasa, a lawyer for the company, said Draculan had asked him for a lift because her car was on the color-coding scheme that day. He added that the suspects could have monitored Draculan's movements as she left the bank escorted by watchmen.

Racasa and Draculan were supposed to go to City Hall on official business when Draculan's boss asked her to drop by the bank to encash a check intended for the payroll.

Racasa said he felt helpless, with a gun trained on him. "It did not help that traffic had been moving at snail's pace," he said.

CHEd employee falls off building

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Alcuin Papa

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH of a 33-year-old man who fell from a the sixth floor of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) building at the Ortigas Business District in Pasig City yesterday morning.

Lester Cauilan, an information technology analyst of the Commission on Higher Education, was already dead when a security guard of the Development Academy of the Philippines found him on the ground by the side of the building.

Police said watchman Tiotemo Dominasac heard a loud thud about 9:45 a.m. from the exit road of the building on San Miguel Avenue in Barangay Antonio.

Dominasac rushed to see what could have dropped from the structure and saw Cauilan already lifeless.

The victim was wearing denim pants, a blue polo shirt and black leather shoes when Dominasac found him.

Police said an officemate saw Cauilan talking to someone on his cell phone while repairing a computer unit inside an office on the fifth floor about 9 a.m.

He stepped out of the office later and was not seen by his colleagues again.

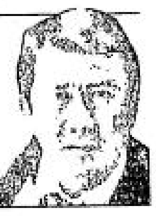
Investigators theorized that strong winds could have caused Cauilan to lose his balance.

Police also said the victim's hands were covered with dirt, a sign that the victim might have held on to a roof railing before falling to his death.

But probers are still conducting a closer investigation into the incident to determine if there was any foul play involved.

CHEd Executive Director William Medrano told radio reporters that Cauilan did his work well and was well-liked by his officemates.

A bad taste in the mouth



ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S taking to task ABS-CBN for the Feb. 4 stampede outside the PhilSports Arena that killed more than 70 people and hundreds injured has left a bad taste in the mouth. She should have left that to her subordinates. By making that criticism, the President has prejudged the case that is under investigation.

It didn't look and sound good for the President to blame the radio-TV network that's highly critical of her. The President's public relations people are not doing their job.

* * *

There has been a lot of ruckus about the President's scheduled limited participation in the 20th anniversary celebration of Edsa I. She will only lay a wreath at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos has described as "deplorable" Malacañang's apparent lack of enthusiasm about the event.

Edsa I brought down the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. But it also brought about an ugly byproduct: the insubordination by some members of the military to their commander in chief. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos started it all by leading the first coup d'etat in the country.

Because Enrile and Ramos were successful in their coup, they set a precedent for military adventurism in the future. Even Edsa II that installed Ms Arroyo in power was a spill-over from Edsa I.

True, a dictator and an incompetent Chief Executive were yanked out by people power, but no matter what you call it it's still insubordination on the part of the military people that joined the mobs.

Now, if you were the President of the Republic, would you want to be reminded of the mobs and the insubordinate military that toppled your predecessors?

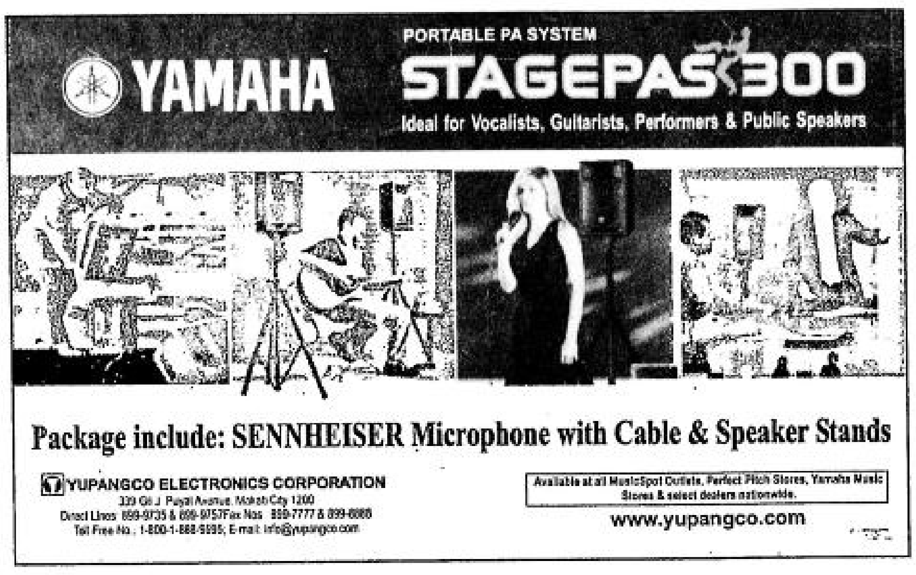
But why make a big to-do out of Cory Aquino's nonparticipation? She was hiding in a convent in Cebu during Edsa.

During her time, President Cory ordered the downplaying of the participation of Enrile and then Col. Gregorio Honasan, principal participants in the Edsa I anniversaries. If "Tita" Cory is not being given recognition in the Edsa I rites this year, attribute it to *karma*.

* * *

I wonder why that Muslim *imam* found inside the Mapayapa Compound in Pasig City when the police raided the place was allowed to leave. While the cops were tying up the men who were lying face down on the ground, the *imam* approached me and asked if he could leave since it was already noontime and he had to pray at the nearby mosque. I said he should ask permission from Director Marcelo Ele, head of the raiding team. Ele said he let the *imam* go because he didn't want to create a religious incident out of it.

Even if he was found inside the compound? He should have been asked what a religious man was doing in that place of evil.



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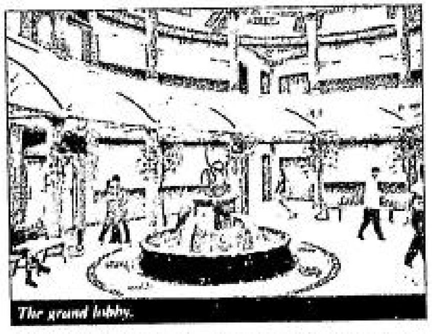
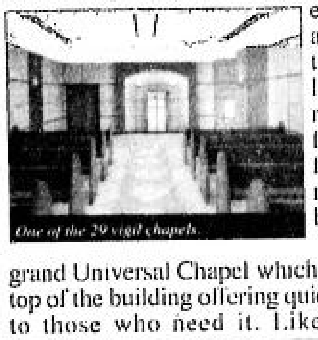
The Sanctuarium: Peaceful Grandeur

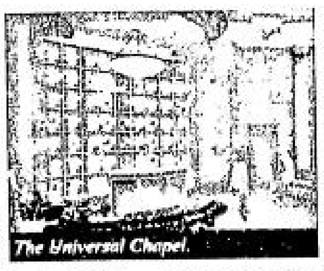
Walk into the Sanctuarium and it's like walking into a palace. With it's majestic grand lobby and breathtaking atrium, the Sanctuarium is quite an uplifting experience. The grandeur does not stop at the lobby though, it resonates in every square inch of this magnificent structure. The Sanctuarium has 29 fully-airconditioned vigil chapels. These vigil chapels each have a comfortable, luxuriously furnished family room and bathroom. There is a grand Universal Chapel which sits at the top of the building offering quiet solitude to those who need it. Likewise, an equally solemn and enchanting Buddhist Temple has doors wide open to those who seek peace of mind. The fifth to the twelfth floors house the perpetual ash vaults, methodically and systematically arranged. Lighting and temperature are computer-controlled and access is easy with two high-speed indoor scenic elevators and escalators. The roof deck will be a tranquil Sky Garden with a scenic view of the open skies.



The grand lobby.



One of the 29 vigil chapels.

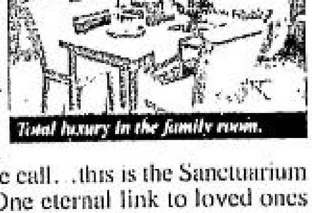


The Universal Chapel.

Envisioned to be the first columbarium complex, the Sanctuarium offers complete services from wake to cremation to perpetual maintenance of the ash vaults. It has conveniently complete amenities like flower boutiques, café's, four-level underground parking and an audio visual library where one can view videos of departed loved ones in complete privacy—videos that will become visual connections that will forever be held dear.

The Buddhist temple.

The Sanctuarium also boasts of the most technologically advanced facilities in the country...state-of-the-art crematorium, fully-computerized operations and well-trained professional staff.Offering one of the most comprehensive memorial packages, the Sanctuarium's Total Memorialization Package is 12 step which includes transport of the deceased, professional service, use of ceremonial casket, use of vigil chapel w/ family room, cremation service, a book type urn, a one hour video, documentation assistance, vault ownership, perpetual care maintenance, credit life insurance and guaranteed best investment. Absolutely everything taken cared of with just one call. One link.



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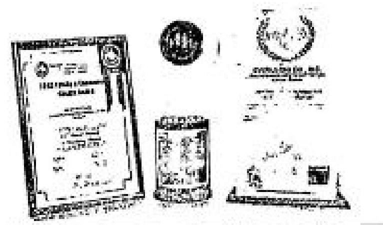

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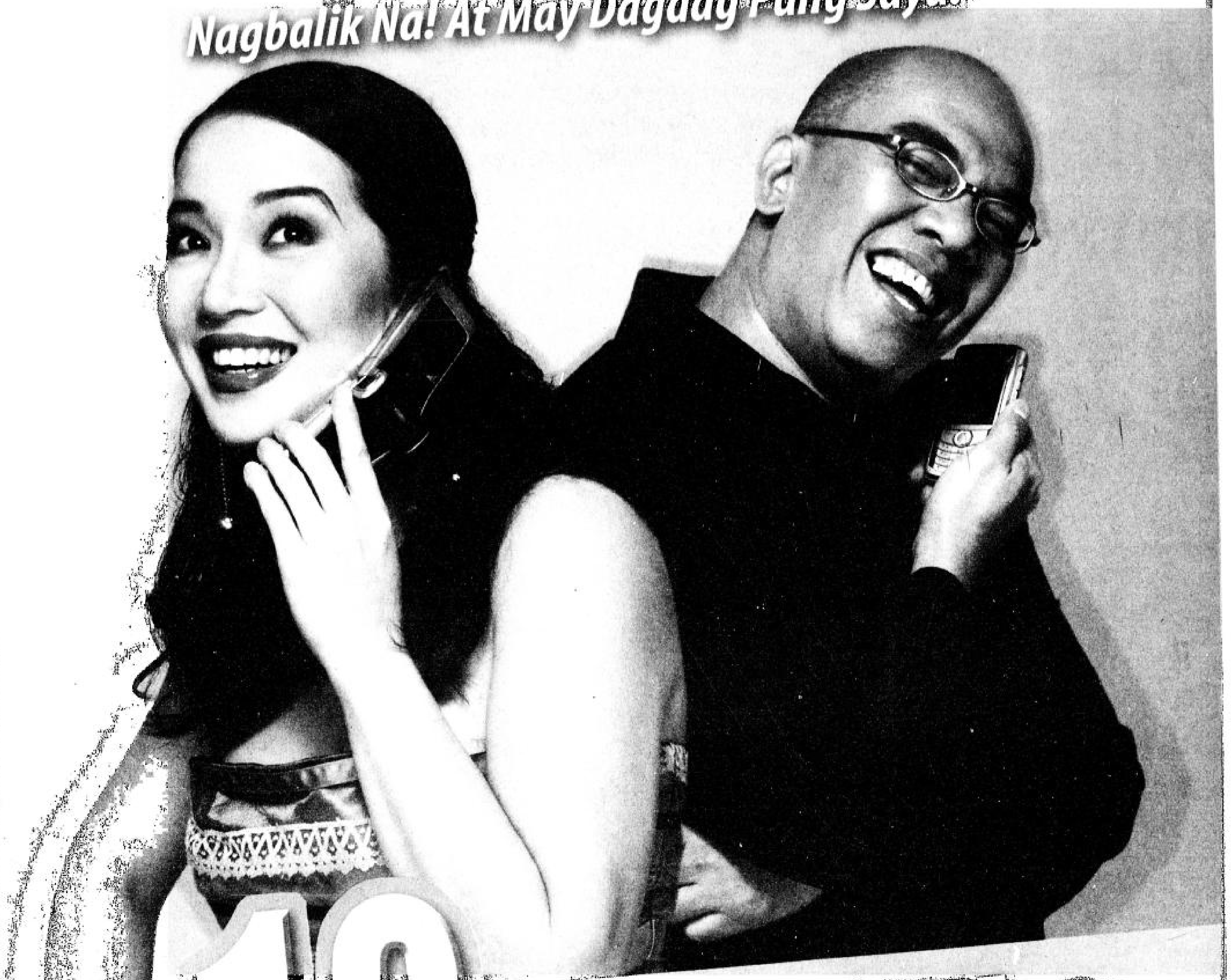

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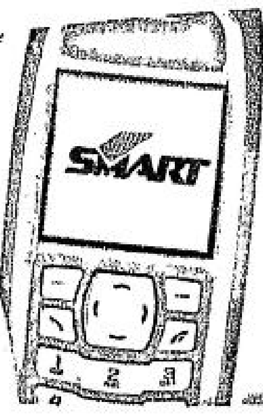

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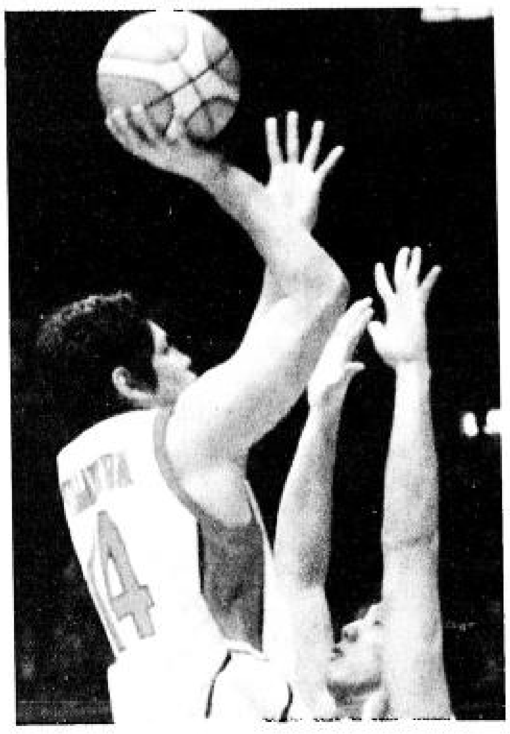
Rookie lifts Red Bull to victory

Bulls grab 3-2 lead despite Chandler's 43



RED BULL'S Rico Villanueva (left) goes for a shot off Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo in Game 5 of their PBA title series last night. Villanueva bested Raymundo for the best player of the conference award. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RED BULL REALLY WASN'T EXpecting anything from Larry Fonacier.

But the rookie out of Ateneo De Manila University pulled off a surprise by bailing out the Bulls for a 91-86 victory that moved them a game away from sealing the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fonacier drilled a three-pointer and finished off the Giants with four straight free throws in the dying seconds as the Bulls withstood another monster performance by Marquin Chandler to grab a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"When we got him (Fonacier), the idea was to break him in gently," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao of this year's 14th overall pick. "But he's proven himself and earned his minutes."

Chandler, who matched the 18-point output of the entire Bulls in the third quarter, exploded for 43 points and 17 rebounds. He even scared the hell out of the Bulls with back-to-back three-pointers before Fonacier provided the cushion with his free throws.

"I know the character of this team and it's about time we reward ourselves with a victory this time," said Guiao after Red Bull bounced back from two straight losses that evened up the series at 2-2. "Any thing can still happen so we should maintain our focus on Sunday (tomorrow)."

GAME TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
5:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods Chunkee

The Bulls now have a 73-percent winning probability as 16 of the last 22 teams which won Game 5 since 1982 went on to capture the championship. Ten of those teams clinched the title in Game 6.

Surprisingly aggressive on the offensive end, James Penny came up with 31 points, 10 of them in the fourth to fuel Red Bull's breakaway, on top of nine rebounds and six blocks. Lordy Tugade had 17 points but wasn't fielded in the final minute as Guiao altered his battle plan.

"I urged Penny to be offensive-minded and that's exactly what he did," said Guiao. "But if you noticed, I didn't finish with Lordy. I don't want to put pressure on him and let the others bail us out."

Kerby Raymundo won his personal battle with Enrico Villanueva by scoring 16 points and hauling down 12 rebounds but the best player of the conference had the last laugh despite finishing with just nine points and 11 boards.

The scores:

RED BULL 91—Penny 31, Tugade 17, Valenzuela 10, Fonacier 9, Villanueva 9, Cruz 7, Pennisi 4, Robinson 2, Torion 2, Baguio 0.

PUREFOODS 86—Chandler 43, Raymundo 16, Yap 13, Pingris 6, Billones 4, Castillo 3, Yap Roger 1, Artadi 0, Limpot 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 50-39, 68-64, 91-86.

VILORIA (left) and Aguirre pose for media at the Alladin Hotel and Casino. TOP RANK

Viloria, Aguirre weigh-in today

FIL-AM BRIAN VILORIA SAYS THERE'S NO way anyone can take away his World Boxing Council light-flyweight belt, not even his Mexican challenger Jose Antonio Aguirre.

"It seems I have fallen in love with my belt so much, that I don't want to give this up to Aguirre," Viloria said during a press conference Thursday at the Alladin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Viloria and Aguirre will clash in the "Real Warriors" card on Saturday (tomorrow morning in Manila) at the Alladin. The official weigh-in is scheduled today.

The undefeated Viloria is staking the title he snatched from Mexican Eric Ortiz last month against Aguirre, a former-WBC minimumweight champ.

The third man on the ring will be Tony Weeks.

Solar Sports and RPN will air the bout starting at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Viloria has won his first 18 bouts, 12 by knockouts, while the 30-year-old Aguirre is a 33-4-1 (win-loss-draw) with 20 knockouts. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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Tamaraws, Knights co-favorites

THE FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY TAMaraws and the Letran Knights have been tagged as favorites in the National Students Basketball Championships that fire off today in two Manila venues.

Letran, the NCAA titlist, battles Cordillera College at 2:30 p.m. in Group A action at the Rizal Coliseum.

In another Group A match, Cavite's San Sebastian College-Recoletos, champion of NCAA South, faces Central Luzon's Tarlac State U at 10:30 a.m.

The Tamaraws parade their stuff in Group B on Sunday against University of Nueva Caceres at 1:30 p.m., while Philippine Christian U plays SSC-R at 3 p.m.

Over at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym on Taft Avenue, the battle for the juniors crown opens with the game between Metro Manila qualifier Philippine Christian University and Holy Child of Davao at 8 a.m. in Group A.

Also in Group A, Don Bosco of Tarlac meets UAAP high school titlist De La Salle-Zobel at 9:30 a.m.

San Beda takes on St. Joseph School of West Mindanao in Group B at 11 a.m., before University of Perpetual Help-Laguna tests the mettle of NCAA's best high school team, San Sebastian at 4 p.m.

In the lone women's (college) game, AMA Computer University tackles Adamson University at 2:30 p.m.

Spring Oil five blasts Harbour

TAGAYTAY CITY—SPRING COOKING OIL EXploded for 36 points in the final quarter to trounce Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila, 102-83, Thursday in the National Basketball Conference's fourth pre-season tournament at the International Convention Center here.

Trailing 66-68 at the end of the third period, Danny Capobres, Ariel de Castro and Gilbert Neo sparked the Cooking Oil Masters' breakaway while limiting the Manilans to 15 points.

It was the second straight win for the squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

Newcomer Batang Tagaytay of host Mayor Bambol Tolentino leveled its record at 1-1 by nosing out Mayor Sammy Co's Pagadian Explorers, 67-66, in the other game of the tournament sponsored by Molten, Nature's Spring, Prime Channel, Spring Cooking Oil and Sulpicio Lines.

The Explorers led, 51-47, early in the fourth, but Rodel Mallari scored eight straight points to spark Tagaytay's rally. Tito Reyes' triple with barely a minute left put the hosts beyond reach, 67-61.

Foreign teams show the way

OSCAR Garcia (left) of Texas reacts to missed 3-foot putt on the 13th hole. JESS YUSON

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

DAVAO—FOREIGN ENTRIES SWUNG into prominence in the two lowest divisions that opened Seniors action yesterday in the 56th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championships here.

The San Francisco-based Maharlika squad, winner of the Friendship category last year, still showed top form in leading the higher Sportswriters class by two points with a 200 total over Lanang, one of three host clubs this year.

The international clout was even stronger in the Friendship Division with Mabuhay (195), Bay Area (188), Alliance and British Columbia (both 173) grabbing the four leading positions after their first round at Lanang.

The final Friendship standings will be decided today at the Apo course even as defending Seniors champion Luisita gets going at the Lanang course in a bid to stretch its record string of title run to six.

Although expected to miss the ailing Alex Montelibano, the Luisitans have summoned Seve Roxas Chua as his replacement in a supercharged lineup that includes Asean Senior champion Iggy Clavecilla, former RP amateur winner Francis Gaston and veterans Richie Garcia and Carlo Gamban.

Standing in their way to a 13th Senior crown overall are the Canlubang shotmakers led by Tommy Manotoc, who is gunning for a third straight individual championship in this event for players 55 years and above.

Luigi Yulo, the longtime team captain of Canlubang's Regular squad that holds the record of 12 championships in their division, joins Rollie Viray as chief backup for Manotoc along with Bing Bunye and Tony Olives.

The Founders Division, a three-horse fight among Villamor, Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club and Wack Wack last year, also starts today.

The major sponsors are Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, GMA 7, Honda Cars Davao, INQ7.net, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Pagcor, People Asia, Premier Wine & Spirirts, Rudy Project and UMBN.

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The standings:

Sportswriters—Maharlika 200; Lanang 198; Davao 189; Team LA 187; Rancho Palos Verdes 185; Apo Golf 185; Hawaii Fil-Am 184; Paoay 183; Philippine Navy 176; Texas Golf 175; Baguio 174; Mactan Coral 168; Bacolod 164; Club Intramuros 164; Fil-Am Florida 163; UP Tee Jots 157; Iligan 157; Veterans 155; Sienna Plantation 154; Zamboanga 144; Club Filipino 140; San Juanico 139; Cotabato 135.

Friendship—Mabuhay 195; Bay Area 188; Alliance 173; British Columbia 173; Travellers SFO 167; Sarangani 161; Pittsburg 159; Fil-Am 159; Guinhalaran 158; Brotherhood Sharp 157; MSU Golf; 1872 Golf 151; Guam Seniors 151; Del Monte 151; Pamplona Plantation 146; Mt. Malindang 143; Golfinos 140; Moffet Fields 140; Mercedes 138; Capitol Hills 135; Fort Bonifacio 126; SFO Heritage 117; Sky West 108.

PBA best player vote under microscope

In Huddle

Beth Celis

I'M LOOKING AT A PIECE OF paper handed to me by PBA head statistician Fidel Mangonon last Wednesday, the day the PBA Best Player and Best Import of the conference were announced.

The document contains the names of the candidates for the Best Player award and the corresponding points each of them collected from statistics and votes from media, players and the four-man committee.

Five players competed for the coveted award: Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva, Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo, Air 21's RenRen Ritualo, Purefoods' James Yap and Ginebra's Mark Caguioa.

At the end of the day, Enrico emerged on top, followed by Kerby, RenRen, James and Mark, in that order.

Enrico got a total of 2,074 votes, Kerby 1,848, RenRen 1,612, James 534 and Mark 492. Enrico got the highest media vote, Kerby was tops in statistical points and in the committee vote, and RenRen was the players' choice.

James and Mark logged impressive statistical numbers, reason why they got into the top five of the Best Player derby, but they were never in contention as far as the votes from the media and the players are concerned.

James got only 29 from media and 48 from the players, while Mark got 24 from the players and none from media.

* * *

Usually, we don't get into the nitty-gritty of these awards, but we took exception to this one because many questions, if not eyebrows, were raised after the winners were announced last Wednesday.

As you can see, the top three candidates were all in solid contention for the award, and it was the media votes that decided the result of the contest.

Villanueva got 1,123 points, while Raymundo and Ritualo received 144 points apiece.

Some quarters are asking exactly how the press voted, and what was the procedure followed by the PBA press corps in determining their block vote, which amounts to 30 points.

Enrico got the PBAPC's 30 points, although he won only by one point against RenRen.

* * *

"The final vote was arrived at after two sets of deliberations," explained PBAPC president Noli Cortez of Malaya. "The members who voted were asked to make a case for their choice during the second deliberation last Sunday. The final tallying followed. Kerby did not have the numbers and, thus, was not included."

The five who voted for Kerby were then asked to vote again for either of the two remaining candidates.

"Everything was done above board. It was a democratic process," stressed Noli, in response to numerous queries.

* * *

Following are the rest of the numbers: From the players, RenRen got 768 votes—the highest, while Kerby and Enrico received 600 and 480 votes, respectively. Kerby got 600 votes from the four-man committee, while RenRen got 200. Enrico got none.

Kerby, who topped the statistical race, got 504 points, RenRen 500 and Enrico 471.

* * *

Can you guess what Red Bull's Celino Cruz, Sta. Lucia's Ricky Calimag and Air 21's Gary David and Niño Canaleta have in common?

I just realized that they had all played for the national team under the Cebuana Lhuillier stable and they're all making a name for themselves in the PBA.

James Yap, Ranidel de Ocampo and Marc Pingris had also donned the Cebuana Lhuillier colors in an international tournament.

* * *

The much-awaited Viloria-Aguirre fight will be aired live at SM cinemas and other movie theaters nationwide tomorrow.

The first fight is scheduled at 10 a.m. (Manila time). Brian will be in the ring around 12 noon, according to Solar's Rico Arce.

Tough field out to prevent Deliarte repeat in TCC golf

ASIAN TOUR CAMPAIGNERS ANGELO QUE and Gerald Rosales are expected to provide the stiffest challenge to defending champion Jerome Deliarte in the fourth staging of The Country Club Invitational starting Feb. 23 at the TCC course in Canlubang, Laguna.

Deliarte, who beat Cookie La'O to the crown by two shots last year despite a closing 77, remains the favorite to take the P1.2 million winner's purse.

But he is up this time against stronger opposition in the P4 million tourney, the richest local event outside the Philippine Open.

Joining Que and Rosales on the roster of top bidders are fellow Asian Tour campaigners Mars Pucay, Juvic Pagunsan and Danny Zarate, 2003 winner Cassius Casas, 2004 champion Tony Lascuña, Artemio Murakami and Carito Villaroman.

Also in the fold are Marlon Dizon, Rey Pagunsan, Benjie Magada, Richard Sinfuego and Ruben Sasutil.

Organizers have converted a par-5 on each nine into par-4s, making the Tom Weiskopf-designed course longer at par 70.

Port services magnate Enrique K. Razon holds the annual tournament to honor the memory of his father, Don Pocholo.

The top 21 finishers last year have been seeded to the event.

Xavier dribblers near Tiong Lian cage title

XAVIER DOWNED CHIANG Kai Shek, 71-61, recently to move within a win of nailing the 2006 Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association-Hitachi Cup title at the UNO gym in Manila.

John Woodward Co led shone anew for Xavier, which lost to St. Stephen, 1-2, in its title series last year.

Co, a 6-foot-3 forward, finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds. He was supported by Philip Ong with 13 points, Charles Tiu with 11 and Marc Tio with 10.

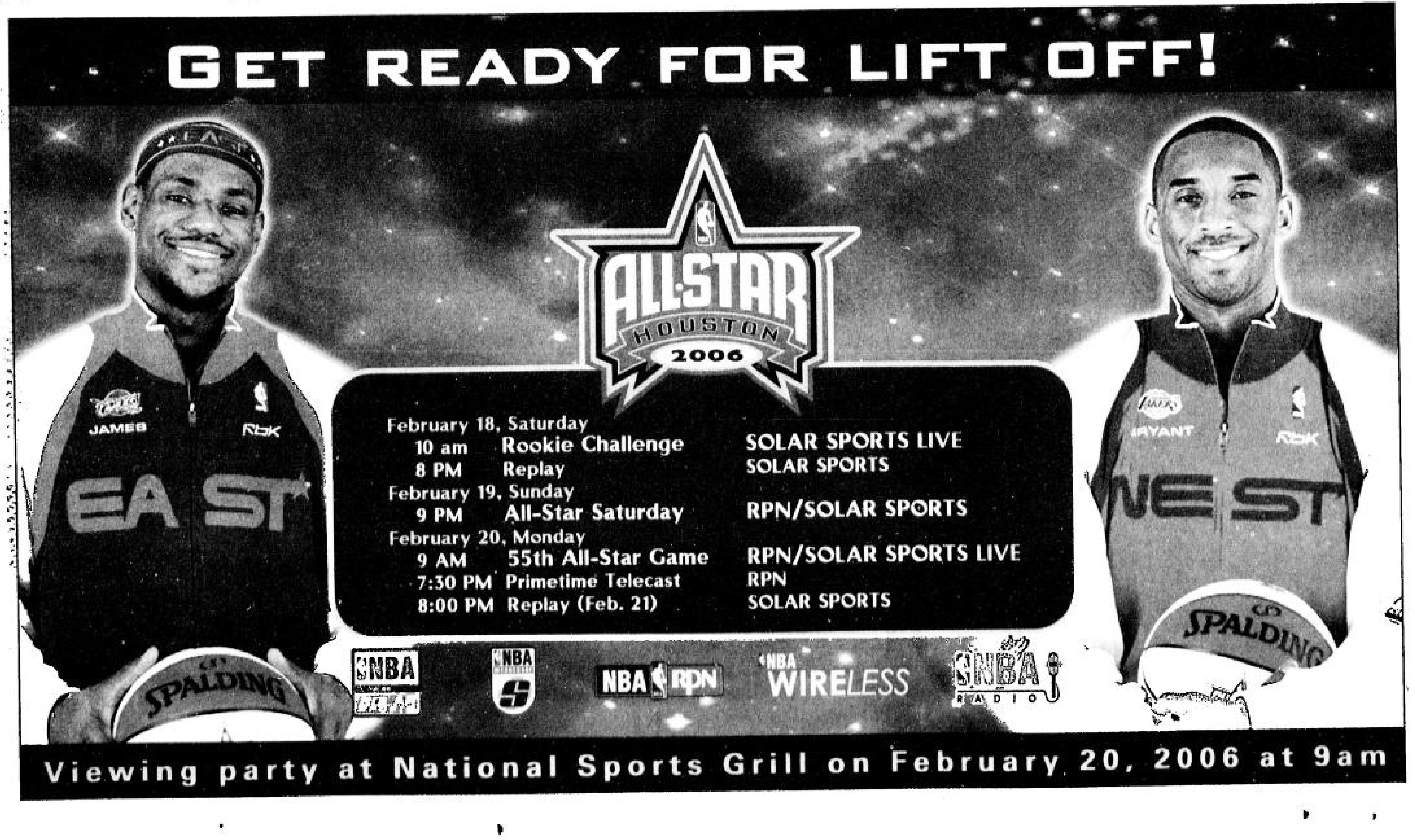
"The boys are determined to win the title," said Xavier coach Patrick Aquino, who is eyeing Xavier its sixth title.

The scores:

XAVIER 71—Co 15, Ong 13, Tiu 11, Tio 10, P. Yao 7, Sta. Maria 5, Chua 5, Datu 3, Torres 2, Sze 1, J. Yao 0, Chong 0, Uychiaoco 0.

CKS 61—Wong 24, J. Chua 12, Lee 6, S. Chua 5, King 4, Lim 3, Go 2, Tan 2, J. Sy 2, Kaligbak 1, B. Sy 0, Mendoza 0, Ang 0.

Quarters: 24-6, 36-23, 57-45, 71-61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9 AM 55th All-Star Game RPN/SOLAR SPORTS LIVE
7:30 PM Primetime Telecast RPN
8:00 PM Replay (Feb. 21) SOLAR SPORTS

Viewing party at National Sports Grill on February 20, 2006 at 9am

Plushenko rescues Russian ego in Turin

TURIN, ITALY—EVGENI PLUSHENKO finished off what he started two days ago, and helped restore some Russian pride after the country became embroiled in the first doping scandal at the Turin Olympics.

Plushenko's flawless performance in the short program gave him an almost unbeatable lead going into the free skate Thursday. He easily won the gold medal, just hours after fellow Russian and biathlete Olga Pyleva was stripped of a silver.

Pyleva returned a positive test to a banned stimulant and was expelled from the games while her rivals were lining up to start the 7.5-kilometer sprint. She also lost the medal she won while finishing second Monday in the 15-km race.

Russian officials claimed Pyleva was the unwitting victim of an error by a doctor who gave her an over-the-counter medication that contained the banned stimulant carphedon, but didn't list it on the package.

"It's a shocking situation," Pyleva told Russian TV, "because I've always been against using banned medications." *AP*

SBS golf: Park leads; Rosales shoots a 73

KAHUKU, HAWAII—GRACE PARK shot a bogey-free 6-under 66 to take the clubhouse lead in the suspended first round of the US LPGA Tour's season-opening SBS Open on Thursday.

Becky Iverson was six under through 15 holes when play was halted because of darkness.

After heavy morning rain delayed the start by 50 minutes and soaked the oceanside course, the players enjoyed sunny and calm conditions for the rest of the day.

Because of the wet and muddy conditions, the players were allowed to lift, clean and place their balls on the fairways.

"With all the rain we had overnight, the greens were definitely softer, slower. But still rolling very nicely," Park said. "The conditions were very nice, close to perfect."

Paula Creamer, the 2005 LPGA tour rookie of the year, shot a 74 and defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines had a 1-over 73.

The fast start was a good sign for Park, plagued by chronic back problems last year. Park injured her back at age 12 in a gym class at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu and said it will be a lifelong problem. *AP*

MARION: All-Star performance. AP

Bulls, Suns rout hapless rivals

CHICAGO—BEN GORDON scored nine of his 21 points during a 16-point third-quarter run, and the Chicago Bulls had their most lopsided victory of the NBA season, beating the Philadelphia 76ers, 117-84, on Thursday.

In the only other match, the Phoenix Suns crushed the Houston Rockets, 109-75, for their fourth straight win.

The NBA takes a break for the All-Star game on Sunday in Houston, and resumes on Tuesday.

Chicago entered the break only two games behind the struggling 76ers in the race for the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

Kirk Hinrich scored 18, and reserve forward Malik Allen added a season-high 16 for the Bulls.

"The biggest thing for us is to get a win at home," Allen said.

Allen Iverson scored 18 points and Chris Webber added 14 for Philadelphia, which has lost six of eight.

"We just got whipped, from the beginning of the game right to the end," Iverson said.

For the Sixers, it's the perfect time for a break, right?

To Webber, yes. To Iverson, no.

"I hope we get rested and rejuvenated," Webber said. "Hopefully, this gives us time to figure some things out."

Iverson would rather keep playing.

"After a loss like this, the break comes at a really bad time," he said. "You just want to get right back on the court."

In Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 21 points and had eight assists and fellow All-Star Shawn Marion had 16 points and 12 rebounds, to help the Suns.

The Suns have a 35-17 record and a 4½ game lead over the Los Angeles Clippers in the Pacific Division. *AP*

Wilson, Rose take spotlight away from ailing stars

LOS ANGELES—DEAN WILSON NAVIGATED his way around Riviera Country Club without a bogey for a 7-under 64, putting him atop the Nissan Open leaderboard with Justin Rose on Thursday.

Wilson played for position, kept bogeys off his card and relied on his wedge to take advantage of the par 5s. Rose missed only three greens, putting from the fringe on two of those holes.

"You tend to hit your whole bag, from 3-iron to wedge," Rose said. "I don't think it suits one player or another. That's why it's such a good place.".

They were two shots clear of a group that included Fred Couples, who was so sick upon returning from Australia that he stayed in bed on Monday and Tuesday, skipped the pro-am on Wednesday and felt his hands shaking over his first putt. He wound up with a 66.

Also feeling ill was Tiger Woods, although it had nothing to do with being allergic to Riviera. Woods, who has won first two tournaments this year but was winless in 10 appearances at his hometown event, recovered from an early double bogey by making four birdies in a five-hole stretch and finished with a 69.

Rounding out the trio of big names under the weather was Ernie Els, who sniffled his way to a 70. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo golf for a cause

THE ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSITY METRO Manila Alumni Association is inviting friends and alumni to join its one-day-fun Golf Invitational on March 17 at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. The 5th Adzummaa Golf Classic 2006 tournament aims to raise funds to support the Faculty Develpment Program of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University. The alumni association, for the last 17 years, has consistently been supporting faculty scholars in their respective masteral studies in different well-known universities, including Ateneo de Manila University. Tee-off time starts at 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. For details, call Precious Yu at 926-9056; Jaime Panganiban at 815-0034 or celiphone 0918-9002159; lawyer Guess Doroja at 726-7830 or 0917-5285560; Fred Suarez at 875-3134 or 0919-5865646.

Rotary tourney gets going

A ROUNDUP TICKET TO HONG KONG FOR TWO will be up for grabs in the Rotary Club of Bagumbayanan Manila's President Golf Classic set Feb. 23 at the Midlands Golf and Country Club course. Tee-off time is from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Proceeds of the event will go to Rotary projects like feeding center, Save an Eye and firefighting Olympics. Among the sponsors so far are Klassik BMW, Integrated Pipe Specialist, J. Channel Ingredient Corp./Cosmic Chemical Corp., The Copa Businessman's Hotel, Capitol Stationary Mfg. Co. Inc., Futura Windows Decor Products, Columbia Fruit Traders, Canadian Club, Philam Plans (Mercado & Associates), Freego, Fil-Sino Manpower Services Inc., GS Go Bros Inc., The Pearl Manila Hotel, MCP Taipan Distributors Co. Inc., United Resources, First Stan Trading Co., Smart, PTT, Manhattan Rubber, Vidal Querol, Henkel Phils., Access Agri Care Inc., Kingkoa Corp., E-Plus and Excelsior Spa.

'Tangkad' tilt tomorrow

HOST MARIST SCHOOL, DON BOSCO-MAKATI, La Salle-Antipolo and Don Bosco-Mandaluyong compete with 15 other institutions in the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament tomorrow. The Metro Manila West zone serves as the final leg of qualifying before the National Finals reels off on March 11 at the Festival Mall in Alabang. St. John Worth Montessori, Hillcrest, Pilgrim Montessori, First Cryron Montessori, Sun Beam Christian School and Trinity College are among the other participants. The early qualifiers to the National Finals of the 12-under event supported by Adidas include San Beda-Manila, Imus Pilot School-Cavite and St. Scholastica-Pampanga.

Coach E sets summer hoops

MALE AND FEMALE BASKETBALL PLAYERS FROM 6 to 16 years old are invited to compete in the Coach E Summer Hoop Challenge set in May at the clubsixfifty in Libis, Quezon City. International Basketball Academy (IBA) president Xavy Nunag said the summer cage tournament is a long-term program to develop young players' skills in the country's most popular sport. For inquiries, call 631-1195 or 0921-7562639, or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com. Registration will be held at the clubsixfifty from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 18 and 25. Leveling of entries is set on April 21 and 22. The tournament will run for eight days.

Big field in NCA 7-cocker

AT LEAST 40 ENTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO VIE IN the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Monday and Wednesday. Meanwhile, Rolly Ligon launched yesterday the P2 million "Largahan" 5-cock derby on March 11, 14, 16 and 18. The fastest win champion will drive home a new Toyota Vios. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

80 fights today at LPC

IT WILL BE A THREE-WAY BATTLE AMONG BREEDers of Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas when the El Matador 4-cock derby sizzles today at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Derby starts at 6 p.m. with 80 fights on tap. Hosts are former Mayor Nena Aguilar and Ching Morales of Pasay, who put a cash prize of P400,000. Participants must submit entries until 2 p.m. today and may contact 873-1040 and 874-3910 for inquiries.

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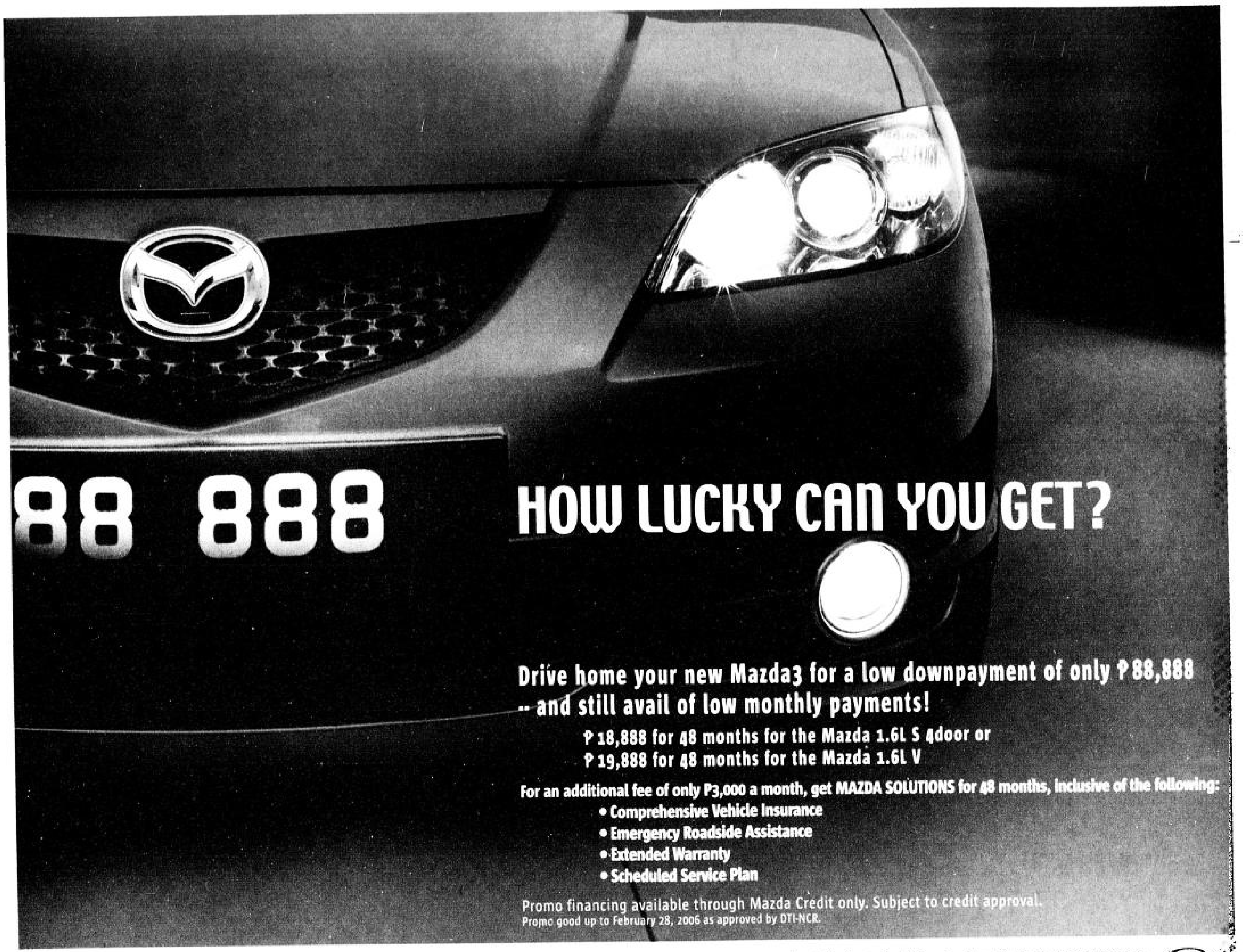

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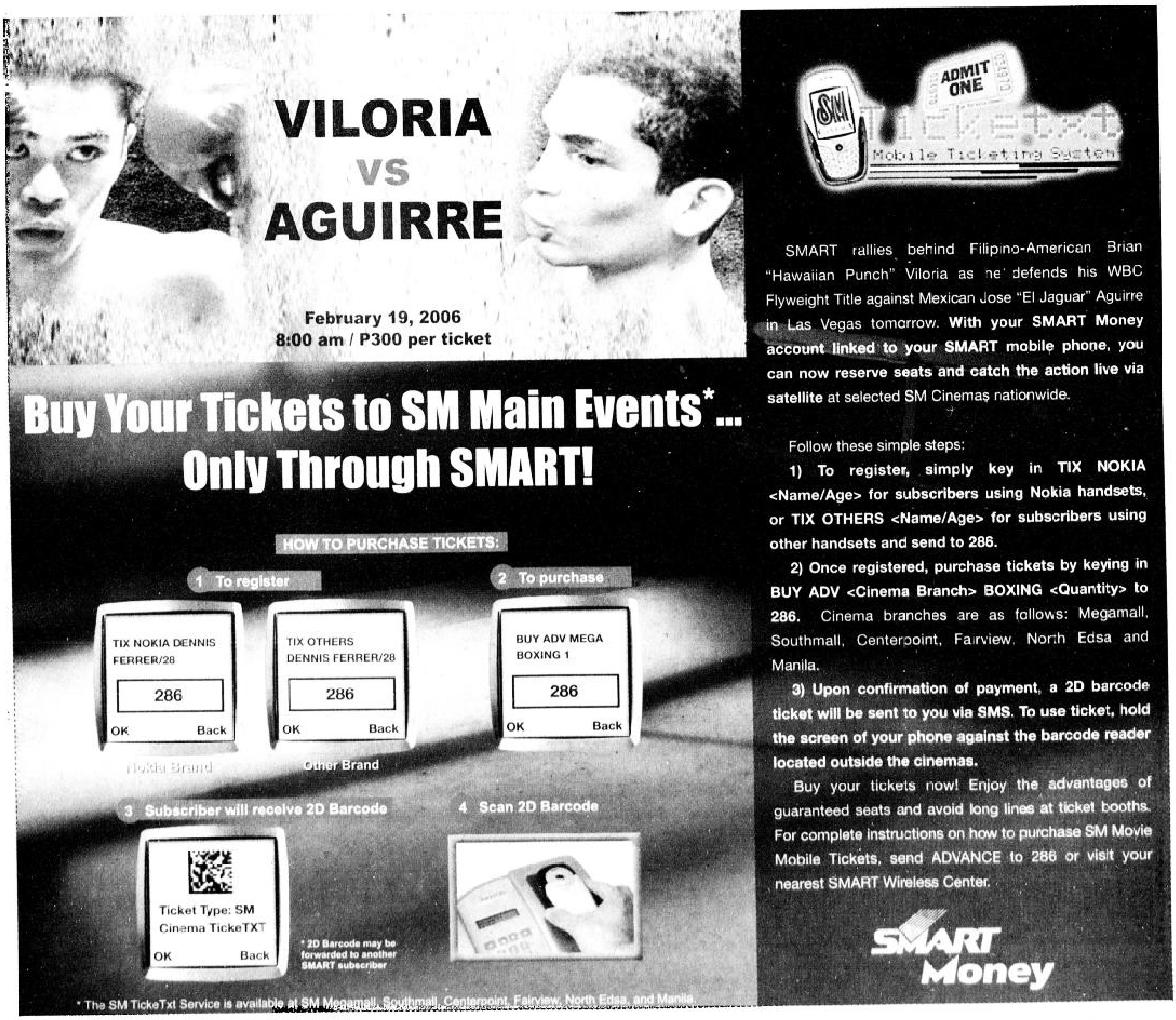

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NOW SHOWING

Leaps of faith and destiny in choice post-Valentine treats

By Rito P. Asilo

"Close to You"

D: Cathy Garcia-Molina
S: John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo

CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA'S BELATED FOLlow-up to 2004's likable rom-com trilogy, "Bcuz of U," is the local romantic film to see this week. Once again, Bea Alonzo fills the screen with the stellar presence of a movie queen, a winsome, breezy demeanor, infectious verve—and the ability to charm her way into viewers' hearts.

Childhood pals, Nuel (John Lloyd Cruz) and Marian (Alonzo), grew up fending for each other. But, the former has secretly fallen in love with his gal pal. For her part, Marian is convinced that she and pop singer Lance (Sam Milby)—her childhood's knight in shining armor, who once stood up for her against school bullies, and whom she hasn't seen in 12 years—are destined for each other. Unfortunately for Nuel, Lance thinks so, too.

When Marian follows the singer to his gigs in Davao, Dumaguete and Bohol (and all the way to Singapore), Nuel grudgingly tags along. But, when the heartbroken Nuel starts to keep his distance, Marian is befuddled: Is she torn between "a habit and a dream"?

Working on a light but tight script, and with actors who are no slouches at drama and comedy, Molina delivers a winner: Polished and heartwarming, *but* without the incessant caterwauling in romantic dramas.

The director brings a lot of heart and *Pinoy* sensibility to the featherweight material.

On point of story and narrative pertinence, however, here's the downside: How can a sensible girl follow a guy all around the country on a whim—and *not* be regarded a nuisance *or* a dangerous stalker?

Cruz, a sensitive actor who's not afraid to make fun of himself, makes it easy to empathize with his character. On the other hand, here's good news to "Pinoy Big Brother" fans: Sam *can* act—he has perceptive, thoughtful eyes and a pleasing personality, *though* he has to get rid of his look-at-me-I'm-cute posturing soonest!

You have to hand it to Molina, Cruz and Alonzo for making the film's narrative implausibilities believable and acceptable. In their able hands, there's reason to believe in leaps of faith and destiny.

"Brokeback Mountain"

D: Ang Lee
S: Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal

Love comes from the most unexpected places. Aside from Terrence Malick's magically ponderous take on the love triangle of Pocahontas, John Rolfe and John Smith in "The New World," this week's *other* must-see, Oscar-worthy flick tackles the tragic 20-year romance between ranch-hands Ennis (Heath Ledger) and Jack (Jake Gyllenhaal), who find true love while tending sheep on Wyoming's Brokeback Mountain. (Check out our review last Feb. 4.)

Ang Lee's achingly sad masterpiece—one of modern cinema's best love stories ever filmed—is an intimate examination of society's norms on love and sexuality as they wreak havoc on the lives of two men.

Ennis wrestles with loneliness and grief, but his belated realization comes 20 years too late—and haunts him for the rest of his lonely life!

"The Pink Panther"

D: Shawn Levy
S: Steve Martin, Beyoncé Knowles

Shawn Levy's prequel to Blake Edward's 1963 comedy classic finds the insidiously inept but pathologically overconfident Inspector Jacques Closeau (Steve Martin) on his first big assignment: To solve the murder of soccer coach, Yves Gluant (Jason Stratham), and retrieve the stolen Pink Panther diamond ring.

Certainly, Levy's "Pink Panther" rehash is no brain food. At best, his version is a hit-and-miss screwball confection that alternately flourishes and flounders. Of course, filling Peter Sellers' shoes is no easy task, but Martin ultimately suffers in comparison. Heck, he even succumbs to bad-gas jokes!

However, if you don't know who Sellers is, then this version will do. When the film's slapstick gags hit their mark, they scorch and sizzle. Sample: When a witness confesses to overhearing a victim exclaim "It's *you*" before he is gunned down by an assassin, Closeau and his sidekick, Gilbert Ponton (Jean Reno), round up all the Yus living in Paris—and end up interrogating 27,683 Chinese immigrants! Laugh at your own risk.

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2nd Draw	Mar. 25, 2006	Mar. 19, 2006	Four (4) Winners Two (2) Males, Two (2) Females
3rd Draw	April 17, 2006	Apr. 10, 2006	Two (2) Winners One (1) Male, One (1) Female

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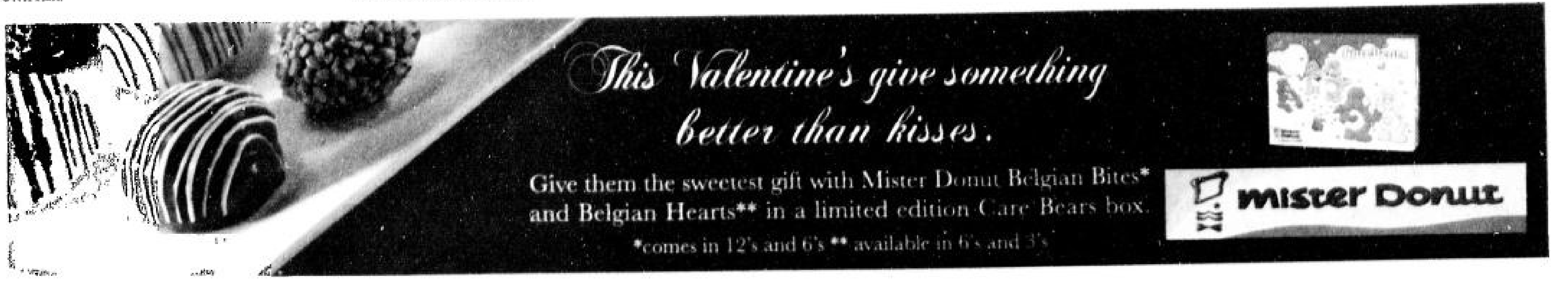

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2	PINK PANTHER	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	GP
3	AEON FLUX	1:06, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
4	GOAL	1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	GP

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2	FIREWALL	11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20	PG13

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4	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	11:50, 2:50, 5:45, 8:40	R18
5	PINK PANTHER	10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20	GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM

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BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R18 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20	GOAL GP 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	PINK PANTHER GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440/41

SHANG CINEPLEX

	Film	Rating	Times
1	PINK PANTHER	MTRCB. GP	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00.
2	AEON FLUX	MTRCB R-13	12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3	EIGA SAI 2006		2:00, 5:00, 8:00
4	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	MTRCB R-18	1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00
PREMIERE THEATRE	GOAL	MTRCB GP	12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

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Slimmer Sharon sizzles in Valentine concert

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE megastar Sharon Cuneta was last seen performing at the Big Dome. So, last Sunday's Valentine concert was a rare treat for her fans.

Parenthood and domestic bliss have recently kept Cuneta inactive, so when she decided to return to the concert scene, the megastar made sure she did it with a bang.

Her hard work was evident in her energetic performance, choice of songs—and how she managed to win her constant battle with the bulge!

Spiels

A slimmer Cuneta danced, swayed and stomped her feet as she sang Barbra Streisand's "The Main Event" in her opening number. From then on, many of her spiels centered on jokes referring to her weight.

CUNETA. Self-deprecating humor.

"*Hindi ko na kamukha ngayon ang bote ng* mayonnaise," she cheerily said. "*Kasya na ulit ang mga alahas ko sa akin.*"

With her trademark grace and self-deprecating humor, Cuneta's ability to laugh at herself was met with cheers and applause from fans who, through the years, have learned to accept their idol through thick and thin—literally and figuratively!

It was also through this brand of humor that the megastar was able to establish an intimate connection with her audience.

She requested boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, who was in the front row, to join her onstage:

"Manny, we're all very proud of you!," she exclaimed. "Can I hug you?" Cheers ensued. She also acknowledged the boxer's wife and jokingly commented: "*Huwag mong pansinin ang mga intriga! Alam mo naman ang* boys, naughty *minsan!*"

Repertoire

Sharon's repertoire paid homage to Barry Manilow, the Carpenters, Josh Groban, Ogie Alcasid and Ryan Cayabyab.

It was a surprise when Cuneta took the electric guitar and, in Alanis Morissette fashion, interpreted "Wag Mong Sasabihin" and "Hari ng Sablay" with verve and panache.

Advantage

As a singer, Cuneta's advantage is in the way she puts so much emotion into even the most ordinary song.

In fact, she is most effective in sentimental ballads—her soothing, cool voice resonates and projects a meditative stillness. *That* was how she interpreted Louie Ocampo's classic hits like "Hagkan" and "Tell Me"—to us, the most touching part of the evening.

It is in quiet, mushy songs that the megastar's generous soul seems to flow out of her heart—all the way to her voice!

From rags to football riches

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'VE SEEN A SPORTS movie in the past 10 years or so, then you've seen "Goal!" This starry-eyed tale of a poor young man who gets a chance to play major league football (or soccer) has a rags-to-riches plot that has been rehashed *ad infinitum*. But, people just can't seem to get enough of it!

The hero in this particular triumph-of-the-underdog yarn is Santiago Munez (Kuno Becker), a Los Angeleno who'd illegally migrated from Mexico when he was a boy.

Dream

As a young man years later, his dream of playing football is constantly being stomped on by a father who wants him to keep his feet on the ground, buy a truck, and start a business.

BECKER. Unprecedented access to a world rarely seen on film.

When a Scottish ex-football star offers a chance to try out for Newcastle United, he grabs it despite his father's efforts to keep him home.

You can guess how the story goes on from there, even if you haven't seen the trailer—which tells you in less than three minutes what took the movie two hours to unfold.

Predictable and romanticized, "Goal!" is a movie made with an American-multiplex release in mind. Despite the clichés, the film gives us unprecedented access to a world rarely seen on film.

Though the action in "Goal!" isn't particularly impressive, the movie possesses an aura of verisimilitude, because it features the environment where professional football actually takes place.

Backing

Directed by Danny Cannon, "Goal!" has the backing of FIFA and UEFA—the governing bodies of world and European football.

So, don't be surprised if you see real football stars popping up here and there, including Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldinho, Sven-Goran Eriksson, Alan Shearer *and* David Beckham, who—looking horribly uncomfortable—even has a brief conversation with Becker's character.

Becker as Munez is engaging enough, but the role doesn't really make his character all that interesting. More attention-grabbing are Alessandro Nivola as the playboy star-player and Marcel Iures as the team manager.

Cinemalaya filmfest announces 10 finalists

By Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL MOVIE BUFFS AND new filmmakers are excited over the second Cinemalaya alternative filmfest, which unreels four months from now.

Who are the 10 new writer-directors who will each be given a seed grant of P500,000 by Tonyboy Cojuangco to demonstrate their ability as filmmakers, and to enrich viewers' lives with alternative movies they wouldn't usually get to see in the country's more predictable mainstream cinema?

Entries

The 10 winners were supposed to be announced last month, but the members of the screening committee felt that some of the semi-finalists' entries needed more revisions.

So, 15 scripts were first chosen, and their writers were given two more weeks to improve on their work, with valuable inputs given by the committee.

Some of the writers took the suggestions to heart and worked hard on their second drafts, so a number of them really improved.

Still, choosing the final 10 was no easy task, and a couple of otherwise worthy entries failed to make it because their exceptional promise in terms of concept and theme wasn't substantially realized.

Teams

So, even if they didn't make it to Cinemalaya, they could be improved on further and enter into other filmmaking tilts, or be self-produced by their filmmakers and their respective teams of backers.

So, who *did* make it? In alphabetical order: **"Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo"** by Nick Joseph Olanka. About a pyramiding scam and the lives it affects.

"Ang Ngipin ni Doring" by Dado Lumibao and Bong Ramos. About the female boxing circuit.

"Batad, Sa Paang Palay" by Vic Acedillo Jr. and Benji Garcia. About the clash between tradition and modernity in the Cordilleras.

"Donsol" by Adolfo Alix Jr. About the tourists, whales and townspeople in a town where whales are frequently sighted.

"Isang Ikot ng Mundo sa Rotonda" by Byron Bryant. About bisecting lives and downbeat incidents circulating around the fulcrum of a busy intersection.

"Larombata" by Khavn dela Cruz. An animated film about the "lives" of toys and games.

Epiphany

"Lima" by Arah Gell Badayos. A middle-aged woman has a belated epiphany about her roles as wife and mother.

"Mga Anino sa Apuhap" by Domingo Lazam III, Ronald Verzo and Sigrid Andrea Bernardo. About subjective love, truth and infidelity in the world of the blind.

"Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?" by Florida M. Bautista and Real Florido.. About the quest for elusive happiness in the world of the misbegotten.

"Tulad ng Dati" by Michael Sandejas. About the local band scene, as vivified by the "rebirth" of The Dawn.

It's hoped that some of these film projects will match the high level of achievement established by the first Cinemalaya movies, like "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," "Pepot Artista" and "Big Time."

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50 countries represented in Bangkok filmfest

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW ON ITS fourth year, the Bangkok International Film Festival unreeled yesterday and runs until Feb. 27 at the spectacular Siam Paragon. The Philippines will be represented by Laurice Guillen's "Santa-Santita" (Magdalena, The Unholy Saint) and Brillante Mendoza's "Masahista" (The Masseur).

DENEUVE. Career Achievement awardee.

Luminaries

Luminaries expected to attend include Vanessa Redgrave, Willem Dafoe, Rita Moreno, Bruce Beresford, Helen Mirren, Diane Ladd, Terry Gilliam and Christopher Lee. Catherine Deneuve will be honored with the Golden Kinnaree Career Achievement Award.

The festival will screen some 160 movies from 50 countries, including "Rent," "Transamerica" and "Pride and Prejudice."

Jurors include (for the International Competition) Fred Schepisi, Nancy Kwan, Julie Delphy, Donald K. Ranvaud, Pantham Thongsang and Charles Dance. Other competitions are the FIPRESCI, New Voices, International Documentary and Short Films.

Up to 12 movies are selected for the International Competition. The Asean competition screens the best films from the 10 Asean countries. In the New Voices competition, 10 to 15 movies by first- or second-time feature directors from all over the world will be shown.

Module

The Windows on the World module showcases about 80 quality movies from different countries, including critically-acclaimed films from leading festivals like Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Toronto.

The Bangkok Film Market will be held concurrently with the festival, and it's important for Filipino producers to plug into this cinematic exchange, which is positioned to take advantage of the worldwide interest in Asian films.

The BFM will also present meaningful seminars and workshops with a special focus on Asia, as well as new markets and media.

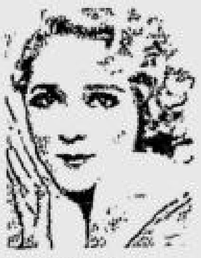
The seminars include "Traditional Film Financing" (on Feb. 21) focusing on pre-sales, gap and equity funding, completion bonds and sales agents. The seminar will be moderated by Lewis Horwitz, an expert in entertainment lending.

Seminars

Other seminars: "Finding the Money," "Screenplay Development," "The Digital Revolution" and "Music in Film."

Some of the international companies confirmed to participate in the 2006 BFM are Beyond Films, Concorde-New Horizons, National Geographic, Toei and Toho Films.

Film festivals are great, but film markets are where the business action is, and movies need to reach new markets and generate export income for a film industry to truly flourish.



PICKFORD. Childlike charm and feminine wile.

Spotlight on Mary Pickford

By Behn Cervantes

MARY PICKFORD was initially known as Little Mary or the The Girl with the Golden Curls. She was one of the first major stars of young Hollywood.

At 14, Gladys Smith charmed producer David Belasco to cast her in "The Warrens of Virginia." Smith's enormous appeal made her an instant star. Belasco then rechristened her Mary Pickford.

Bedimpled

The bedimpled lass had been her family's breadwinner since the tragic accident of her father. The difficult domestic background made Mary a wily and determined person.

When she turned 16, she used her charm to win a more lucrative contact from D.W. Griffith, who vowed to make her the "most popular star in screen history."

On the big screen, Pickford was the epitome of "childlike charm and feminine wile," the same combination that made her one of Tinseltown's most influential adresses.

She founded the Pickford Company and, together with Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffith and Douglas Fairbanks, she formed United Artists Corporation.

Box office

She was also *numero uno* at the box office and was

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6 GOLD (SDDS) GOAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
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MEGAMALL
1 PINK PANTHER 11:05 FS / 11:35 MF / 01:10 / 03:45 / 05:50 / 07:55 / 09:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:30 END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
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2 PINK PANTHER 11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 / 07:30 / 09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
3 MUNICH 12:00 FS / 12:10 MF / 03:20 / 06:25 / 09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 12:10 END
MANILA
6 FIREWALL 11:00 FS / 01:00 MF / 03:30 / 05:00 / 07:00 / 08:45 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:45 END
movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FIREWALL
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 NEW WORLD
11 SAW 2
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 AEON FLUX
2 FIREWALL
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 GOAL
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 NEW WORLD
10 SAW 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 NEW WORLD
2 SAW 2
3 FIREWALL
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 GOAL
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 AEON FLUX
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 MUNICH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 AEON FLUX
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 GOAL
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 NEW WORLD
9 SAW 2
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 AEON FLUX
4 RESERVED
5 NEW WORLD
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 PINK PANTHER
8 FIREWALL

SM CITY MANILA
1 GOAL
2 NEW WORLD
3 SAW 2
4 AEON FLUX
5 PINK PANTHER
6 FIREWALL
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 BLOODRAYNE
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 SAW 2
2 NEW WORLD
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 NEW WORLD
8 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY LUCENA
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 DERAILED
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE MAID

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 PINK PANTHER
3 MUNICH
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 FIREWALL

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SAW 2
2 RESERVED
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 RESERVED
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 SAW 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 HALF LIGHT
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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WIN! Limited Edition "Aeon Flux" premium items from United International Pictures and Storm Watches from No Curfew by simply answering these questions from the movie
1.) The most valuable asset in the Monican operatives
2.) The walled city
3.) The channel where "Aeon Flux" first appeared as an animated series
4.) The Chairman of the Council of Scientists
5.) The creator of "Aeon Flux" animated series
6.) The Captain of the Guard
7.) The leader of the rebellion
8.) The one responsible for the supervision of the Bregnan military
Submit your answers together with your particulars to the nearest SM Cinema branch where "Aeon Flux" is showing
NAME
ADDRESS
SIGNATURE
AGE
CONTACT NUMBER
A RELEASE THROUGH
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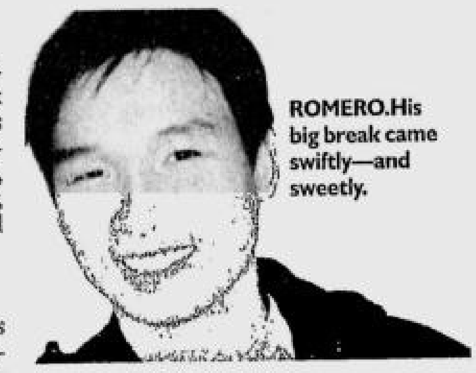
Robby Romero cherishes role as Pope John Paul II

By Rito P. Asilo

IT TAKES YEARS FOR MANY THEATER ACtors to land a role that they can really sink their thespic teeth into. In Robby Romero's case, his big break came swiftly—and sweetly: The lead role of Pope John Paul II, no less, in the recent staging of the CBCP fundraiser, "Be Not Afraid," on the life of the well-loved pontiff.



ROMERO.His big break came swiftly—and sweetly.

Alumnus

The 20-year-old Ateneo graduate has always been fascinated with performing. He is an alumnus of La Salle's acclaimed Kundirana, and has also dabbled in show bands and the movies.

His fondest recollections are of the theater. But, his affinity to the legitimate stage may be providential. He explains, "In Jerry Respeto's stage adaptation of 'Paraisong Parisukat,' I was plucked from the chorus and suddenly found myself playing the main character when the original lead actor quit.

"When I took a musical-theater workshop under NUT at Ryan Cayabyab's studio last year, I didn't expect that the experience would lead me to 'Be Not Afraid'—and to the lead role, at that!

"In the middle of rehearsals for the play, I was offered a job at a top TV network. For sometime, I was in a quandary to choose which career path to take, so I prayed to God for a sign. Then, on the day that I was supposed to decide, I read an article about 'Be Not Afraid'—and I knew what my answer would be!

"But, the reality of the situation really started to dawn on me when I attended the first rehearsal, and saw that Boots Anson-Roa and Tommy Abuel were there—to play the Pope's parents! 'This is serious!,' I told myself. I was starstruck, but I didn't feel intimidated, because they were both supportive and nurturing."

Robby soon realized that landing the lead and getting into the character are two different things. He admits, "Theater is hard work! To memorize my character's kilometric lines, I would hole up in Starbucks, and I'd write down my lines *sa* tissue paper as I recited them.

"On my way to work, instead of listening to music, I would say my lines repeatedly in different ways and styles. It was a case of mind over matter—the whole experience doesn't just boost your confidence and make you a better actor, it also makes you a good person, because you learn to understand and interact better with people.

Great honor

"It was a challenge and a great honor to portray this beloved icon—he dedicated his whole life in the service of God and his vocation! When I read the script, my admiration for Pope John Paul II soared. Here was a man who lost his whole family at a very young age. Yet, he never blamed or questioned God—he even chose to pursue a religious calling!"

Robby fondly remembers a game he and his younger siblings used to play as children. He recalls, "In this special game, we would assign different names of influential people to ourselves. And the name assigned to me was . . . Pope John Paul II!"

For touring performances of "Be Not Afraid," call 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424.

Reassessment needed for 'Starstruck'

By Nestor U. Torre

"STARSTRUCK" HAS LOST much of its appeal to us because most of its past discoveries have been doing such humdrum work in show biz. Thus, the talent search's difficult and sometimes sadistic challenges and "total performer" requirements strike us as quite unnecessary and even self-serving.

But, we continue to catch the show from time to time, to see if the young finalists are being treated right. —Well, not very. They are sometimes harassed, criticized and dissed, and *that* can't be a good thing for teen talents.

Savvy performers

Sure, the objective may be OK—to turn them into tough, disciplined and savvy performers—but, what about all those bruised young psyches? Besides, as we've already pointed out, excellence is *not* the name of the game in commercial show biz, so why the exceedingly tough training?

The show's jurors and trainors should remind themselves that these are *young* talents, so they should be encouraged rather than pressured into doing better work. Switch from bitching to real teaching, why don't you?

Another aspect to the talent search that befuddles us is the "survival power" of its male finalists.

When this year's competition started, it was clear that the female finalists were better-looking and had more going for them than their male counterparts. But, at this stage of the tilt, most of the survivors (five out of eight, as of this writing) are male. What's going on?

Truth to tell, the only male finalists who are coming on strong are Vivo (for looks) and Marky (for dancing talent).

Charisma

As for the female bets, some have been eliminated who had stellar charisma going for them, so what gives?

Of course, when push comes to shove, it's the show's prerogative to choose its winners according to its best lights. We just hope that the decisions are judiciously arrived at, and derived mainly from talent, star value and audience appeal, nothing more nor less.

A third bone of contention is the quality of the performing exercises that the finalists are made to go through.

Recently, we caught a particularly icky drama scene that bothered us, because it sent out wrong signals about what "good" drama and acting are all about.

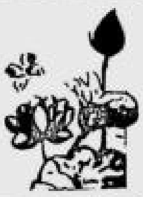
Good actors

If the talent search wants to produce good actors, it had better put its young talents through the proper thespic paces, and not have them bawling and shrieking all over the place in full melodramatic froth.

It should also teach young talents playing *konrabida* roles that they can do much more than just the usual glaring, growling bit that's been done to death since the 1950s. It's 2006, for goodness' sakes, so let's not live in the neanderthal past, shall we?

Fighting sores and cancer

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

I CAME ACROSS AN INTERESTING BOOK, "Ordinary Ailments, Extraordinary Cures," by Frank Wood and the editors of FC&A Medical Publishing. I would like to share with you the book's simple but practical tips on how to deal with canker sores and serious diseases like cancer.

Canker sores appear inside the mouth and tongue. They cause problems in speaking, singing and eating. Some tips:

1. Try not to fan the flames. Cool down hot foods before eating. Avoid anything acidic, salty, spicy or sugary, like tomatoes and tomato sauce, pickled food, hot pepper, and citrus fruits. (Irritants include strong vinegars and flavoring.)

2. Prevent canker sores by taking four tablespoons to two cups of yogurt a day.

Astringent

3. Apply a wet tea bag over the sore for at least 10 minutes. The tannin in tea is an astringent that will dry up and heal the sore. (A good local astringent is guava leaves.)

4. Use vitamin E from a capsule and squeeze it onto the sore.

Food and drinks that may trigger sores: chocolate, seeds, nuts, gelatin, alcohol and anything spicy and acidic.

Surprisingly, cinnamon was also cited as a "culprit" to avoid. It irritates whatever part of the mouth it comes into contact with.

The book states: "People who frequently suck on hard candies tend to get canker sores on one side of the tongue or cheek. Cinnamon tea drinkers, on the other hand, are more likely to get them all over the mouth."

As far as battling cancer in concerned, the book has this to say: "Many fruits and vegetables contain the big three: Vitamins C and E, and beta carotene. Antioxidants like flavonoids are compounds that give color, flavor, and taste to plants. Load your plate with these superheroes!"

Pollutants

Berries, on the other hand, are "these little morsels that pack one of the biggest antioxidant punches. Natural chemicals like anthocyanin and ellagic acid deliver blows to cancer-causing pollutants. So, eat strawberries and blueberries because they are 'berry' good for you."

ESTEBAN (WITH STUDENTS). Skills for different environments.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

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Competitive

It prepares students to be competitive internationally. Since the students at Esteban are mostly expatriates, foreign languages have become, an integral part of its curriculum.

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In the succeeding years, students continue to hone their skills, develop and nurture new ones that will help them cope with the challenges of the future.

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LEARNING/ A2-8

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CHRISTIAN BALE as John Rolfe
Q'ORIANKA KILCHER as Pocahontas
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JEARWIN MEILY · TUESDAY VARGAS · JAMES BLANCO · JANNA KING
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a film by MAC C. ALEJANDRE
Now that love has begun, can they make love last forever?
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MTRCB RATING-GP

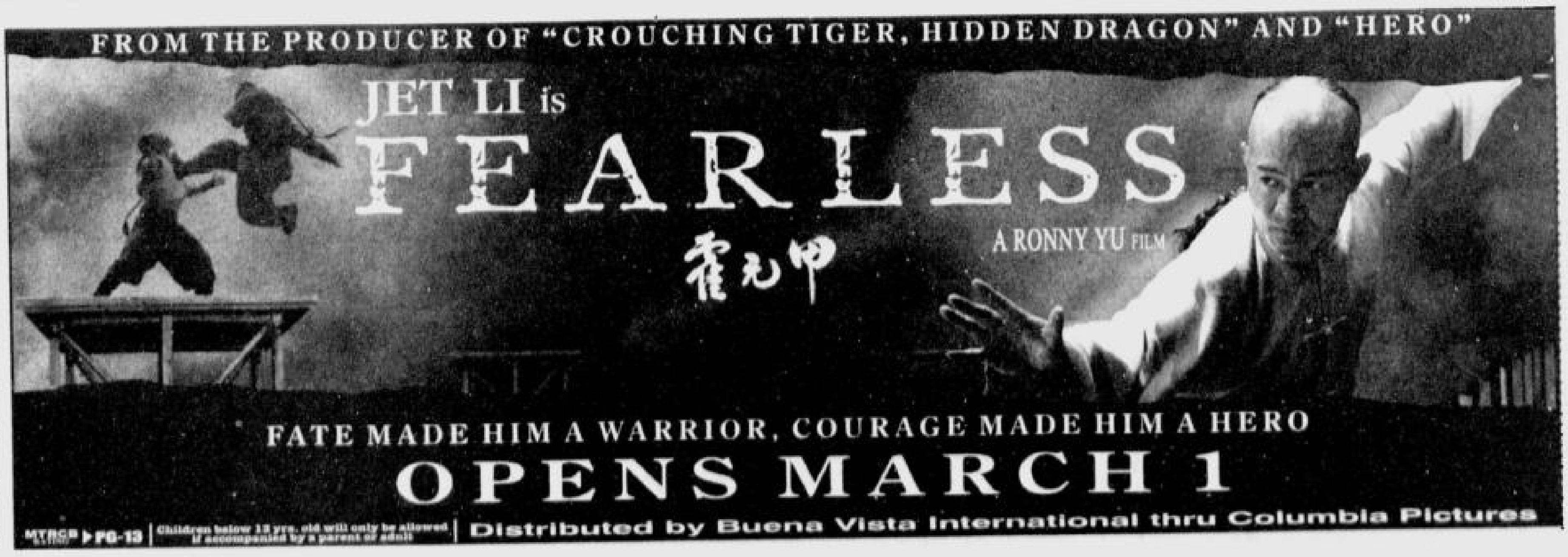
Watch "I Will Always Love You" and get a chance to win P100,000 cash, a trip to Hong Kong, and other amazing prizes! Here's how to join:

1. Every purchase of one (1) I Will Always Love You movie ticket in all participating cinemas from February 10 to 19, 2006 entitles you to one (1) raffle ticket.
2. Fill up the coupon with your name, address, telephone number and signature and drop in drop boxes located at the theater lobby
3. Raffle tickets must be dropped in drop boxes on or before February 19, 2006
4. Grand Draw will be held on February 23, 2006 at Eat Bulaga between 1:30-2:30PM. All entries will be consolidated at Eat Bulaga, Broadway Centrum where up for grabs are the following:
One (1) Grand Prize winner - PhP 100,000.00 cash

Other prizes:
Three (3) winners of roundtrip tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland for two for four days-three nights
Five (5) winners of Sanyo ST-21G1 53.34 cm (21") TV sets
Five (5) winners of Sanyo SR-S63DW 0.18cum (6 cu. Ft.) refrigerators Direct Cool
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHMO-2032 microwave ovens
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHWD-93 water dispensers
Five (5) winners of iPod Shuffle 512 MB M-9724ZP/A
Ten (10) winners of Orange DVD players
Ten (10) winners of Nokia 1100
Four (4) winners of M2923B 50.8cm (20") Easy Rider bicycles
Three (3) winners of American Home AWT-631P washing machines w/ dryer
Two (2) La Germania SL530-00W gas ranges

5. Winners can only win once. In the event that a name is picked more than once, he/she will get the prize of higher value.
6. Winners will be contacted by phone and/or registered mail.
7. Present the winning raffle claim stub and one (1) valid ID when claiming the prizes.
8. Prizes should be claimed at the Regal Entertainment, Inc. office at #38 Valencia St. Quezon City beginning February 24, 2006. The winner must claim his prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within the allotted time duration forfeits the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval.
9. NMI shall contact winners outside Metro Manila and let them choose whether they want to receive their prize via courier or claim it at the Regal Office. Winners shall shoulder all shipping costs.
10. All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media Inc., Regal Entertainment, Inc., participating cinemas and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0883, series of 2006



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Feb 26, 3pm & 6pm

Activity Center
March 1, 3pm & 6pm
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AYALA CINEMAS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PINK PANTHER	2 CLOSE TO YOU	3 FIREWALL	4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSE TO YOU	2 AEON FLUX	3 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FIREWALL	5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	6 PINK PANTHER	7 GOAL
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	2 PINK PANTHER		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PINK PANTHER GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 AEON FLUX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FIREWALL GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MUNICH GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN		
	3 GOAL	4 CLOSE TO YOU	5 AEON FLUX	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	3 CLOSE TO YOU	4 MUNICH

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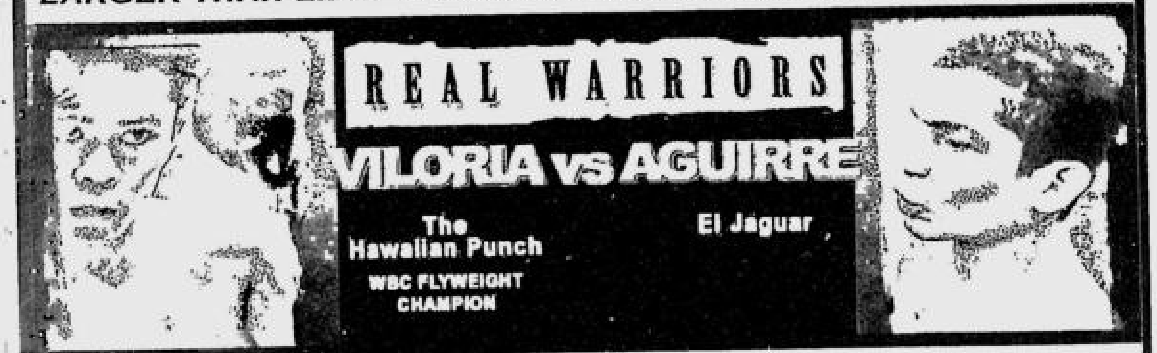

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3. AEON FLUX
4. PINK PANTHER
5. BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

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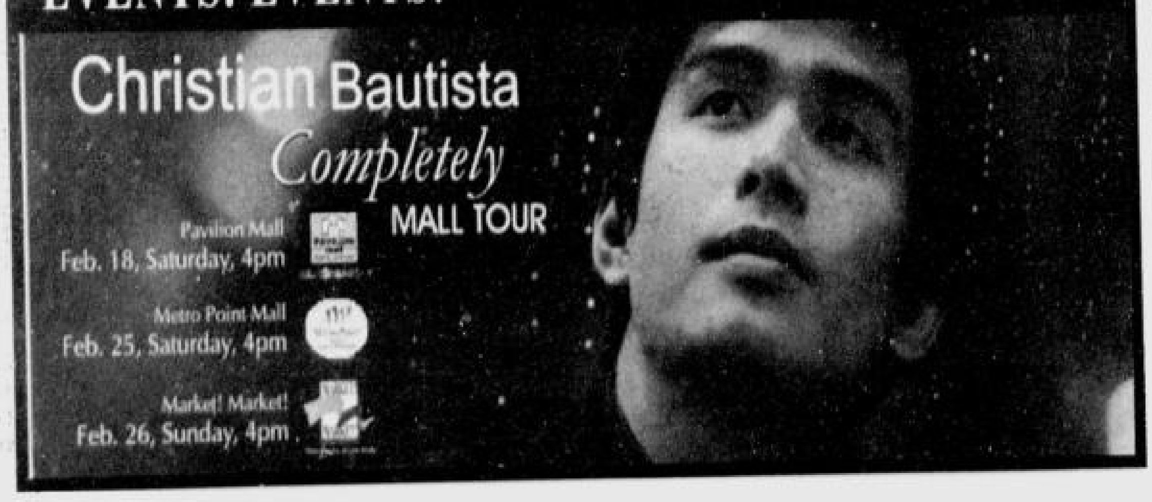

Pavilion Mall
Feb. 18, Saturday, 4pm

Metro Point Mall
Feb. 25, Saturday, 4pm

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Feb. 26, Sunday, 4pm

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 MUNICH • THX
12:50 4:00 7:15 10:00

2 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 GOAL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 AEON FLUX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 PINK PANTHER
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 FIREWALL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 NEW WORLD
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

10 FUN with DICK and JANE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CLOSE TO YOU 11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

2 FUN with DICK and JANE 12:00 2:20
NEW WORLD 4:45 7:15 9:50

3 GOAL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 AEON FLUX
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 PINK PANTHER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

3 NEW WORLD
12:40 3:20 6:10 9:00

4 GOAL
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:55 3:10 6:05 9:00

6 FIREWALL
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

7 PINK PANTHER
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 FIREWALL
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 FUN with DICK and JANE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5379

1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 GOAL

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1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 SAW 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU

LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 WALK THE LINE
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 SAW 2

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 MUNICH
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 PINK PANTHER

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3 CLOSE TO YOU
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2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 GOAL

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1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE
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6 SAW 2

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NVC's 'Aspects of Love' goes to Singapore

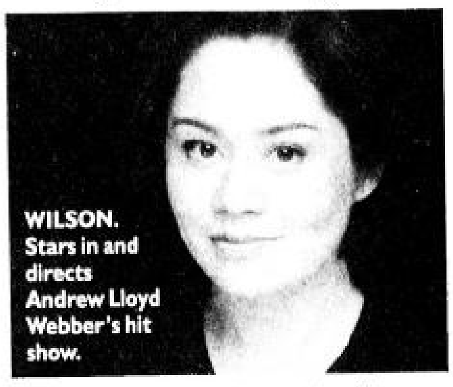
By Rito P. Asilo

THERE'S A GOOD REASON WHY THE NEW Voice Company is on tenterhooks these days: From April 24 to May 7, its critically-acclaimed, intimate version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," is set to open at the Drama Center in Singapore, before it starts its 12th season with a special one-weekend run of "Aspects" at the Promenade's Teatrino in Greenhills from May 12 to 14.

If you missed its performances at the Republic of Malate last year, this is your final chance to catch it.

Memorable

In 1993, I went to Singapore to direct Monique Wilson, Jenny Jamora and Tami Monsod in "The Vagina Monologues." That particular run was, in fact, already the company's third staging of Eve Ensler's hit play in the city-state. But, it was nevertheless memorable, because every time a New Voice show would be staged abroad, I considered it an opportunity to showcase the formidable *Pinoy* talent to our Asian neighbors.



WILSON. Stars in and directs Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit show.

For the past seven years, NVC has, in fact, been stretching its wings and touring its theatrical productions around Asia: "TVM" has also had three runs in Hong Kong and two runs in Japan (including two Japanese translation runs). The company has likewise brought its one-woman theatrical piece, "Classical Monique," to fringe theater festivals in Hong Kong and Edinburgh in Scotland.

The cast of "AOL" is now busy rehearsing for the show's Singapore run. But, there's a sentimental reason why performing in "Aspects" is special to me: The last time I acted *with* Monique was in 1997's "I Am a Woman"—my first-ever production with New Voice!

Partnership

Ever since I joined the company (as resident director and actor), Monique and I would always alternate directing our seasons' productions. Of course, acting with her has always been a pleasure and an honor, but with "AOL," our artistic partnership comes full circle.

"Aspects of Love's" lessons on loving, losing and moving on has taught me so much ("Life goes on, love goes free, so must we...," as one of Marcel Richard's oft-repeated lines go)—indeed, nothing beats a timely moral that hits you straight to the heart! You can't help but take heed!

But, personal mush notwithstanding, I am excited to share the stage again with "AOL's" wonderful cast: **Monique, Jake Macapagal, Leo Rialp, Lynn Sherman, Julia Abueva, Nikki Ventosa, Topper Fabregas**, et al., who all hope to bring pride to our country.

Call **Anabelle** or **Rona de Lim** at +632 896-5497, e-mail nvc@pldt.net.ph, or visit www.newvoicecompany.com.

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FIREWALL

Eating Japanese

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM of mine to take a culinary tour of Japan. I was sure there's more to that country's intriguing cuisine than *tempura, sukiyaki, teriyaki, sushi* and *sashimi*.

Recently, that dream came true *here* in Manila. I was invited by George Yulo to sample the dishes offered by the newly-opened Japanese restaurant, Seryna.

Fresh ingredients

The place was occupied by mostly Japanese nationals. George introduced me to the owner.

Here's a list of the dishes: Cold food—*ootoro, sirako, ankimo, katsuo tataki, ika shiokara, kampachi, hirame,-maguro/ika nuta* and *nama kake*. Hot food—*kobe amiyaki, buri kama, oden, tabe gyoza, ninku* and *chawan mushi* with caviar. Except for *kobe*, there was nothing on the list that was familiar to me. *That* made the evening more exciting!

As soon as we sat down, we dove into our meal. Japan imports class-A *toro sashimi* from General Santos in Mindanao. We had *toto* with *ponsu* sauce, a mild vinegar.

We also had *shirako ponzu*, which is a fish's sperm sack that has the texture of calf's brain. *Ankimo* (fish liver) tastes exactly like paté *foie gras! Fugo* or blow fish (*butete*) is a poisonous fish that can be lethal if not prepared properly. In Japan, only licensed chefs are allowed to serve them.

Hot items

Among the hot items, *ika shiokara* is squid with Japanese *bagoong*. We had an oyster dish dipped in sauce, with thin slices of *wagyu* beef, broiled on a griller.

The meal came with Japanese vodka made from rice—just like *sake*. What an experience!

If you want a truly delicious culinary adventure, check out Seryna, located in Japan Town on Chino Roces ave. beside Makati Cinema Square. Call 894-3855.

Happy eating!

Email sandydaza@shaw.ca

'Caysasay' musical tours Batangas

MONTAGE

"BIRHEN NG CAYSASAY," THE ACclaimed musical by Ryan Cayabyab and Nestor Torre, will have two more performances in Batangas City—on Feb. 23 at the Lyceum, and on Feb. 24 at the University of Batangas.

Cocoy Laurel reprises the male lead role of Haybing, **Ivy Violan** plays Sylvia and **Tommy Auel** portrays the role of Padre Juan. Other major roles are portrayed by **Nicole David, Rito Asilo, Shiela Asuncion, Andy Bais, Albert Jimenez, Mica Torre, Jonas Santos, Elijah Castillo, Nadja Matining** and **Karla Pambid.**

Call 781-5918 or 749-6439.

Mariño family reunion

The Mariños of Taal, Batangas are holding their first family reunion today and tomorrow. The reunion starts at Batangas Country Club in Bolbok, Batangas City, and proceeds to Taal the next day, where the members of the clan will make a cultural connection with the birthplace of their ancestors.

Activities include games, a talent show, making a family tree, and a dinner-dance. Illustrious relatives include Marcela Mariño Agoncillo, who sewed the first Filipino flag that was used in the proclamation of Philippine Independence in 1898.

Invited guest speakers, all with Mariño antecedents, are Rep. Dodo Mandanas, Rep. Abraham Mitra, Mayor Dado Cabrera, and noted sculptor Ramon Orlina, whose mother wrote the book, "Taal." Some relatives have flown in for the reunion from Europe and the United States. Call Danny Mariño at (02) 749-6257 or 0917 358-9344.

'Starlight Cabaret'

The last performance of "Starlight Cabaret," a glittering show featuring the best performers from the Estonian Dance Agency, will be held tonight at the Legenda Casino, Legenda International Resorts, Subic. The cabaret entertainment showcases timeless songs and dances from musicals, as well as Caribbean numbers.

The EDA was set up for the development of Estonian dance life, and offers creativity and work opportunities to choreographers and dancers. It employs over 100 contractual performers, all of whom are professionally prepared and experienced.

'McBride' on Hallmark

John Larroquette plays the title character in "McBride," about a cop-attorney who has the unique ability of flashing back to the scene of the crime. Tomorrow at 9 p.m., the "Mc Bride" episode featured on the Hallmark Channel is titled "It's Murder, Madam." In the episode, a lovely female escort is accused of killing her employer, and McBride vigorously rushes to her defense.

Eiga Sai filmfest

LAUREL. Reprises lead role of Haybing in popular production.

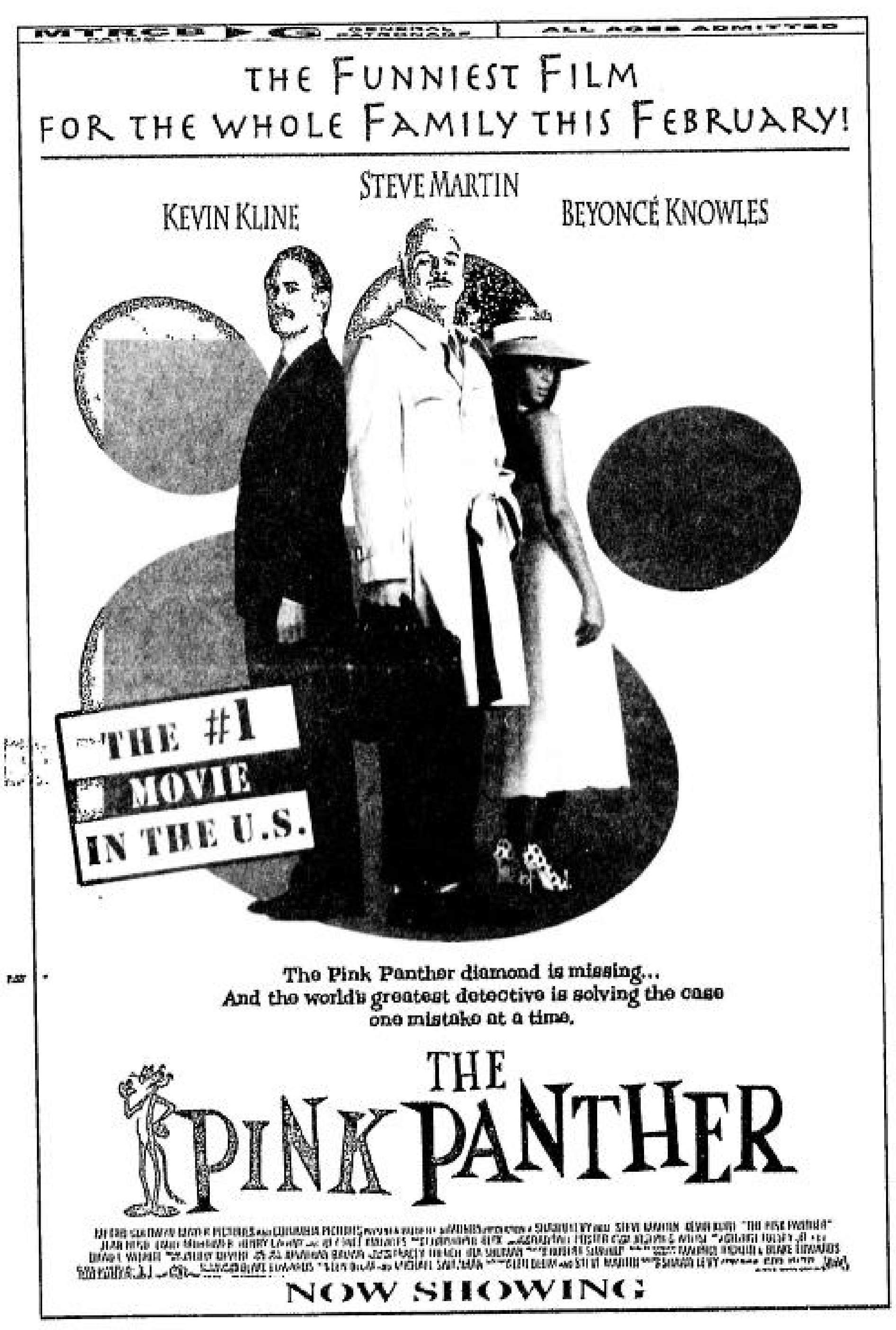
The 2006 Eiga Sai Japanese filmfest unreels at the Shang Cineplex's Cinema Three. Schedule of screenings: Today, at 8 p.m., "Waterboys." Feb. 19 at 2 p.m., "Tsugumi." 5p.m., "Young Girls in Love." 8 p.m., "A Summer Page." Feb. 20 at 2 p.m., "Memories of You." 5 p.m., "Swimming Upstream." 8 p.m., "First Love." Feb. 21 at 2 p.m., "A Summer Page." 5 p.m., "Tsugumi." 8 p.m., "Gomen." First come, first served. Call The Shang at 633-7851 to 70, local 151.

'Equator'

The Animal Planet's "Equator" series screens its "Rivers of the Sun" episode at 9 p.m. today, featuring the mighty Amazon River.

Movies on TV

On HBO, 1 p.m. today, "Prisoners of Azkaban." 3:30 p.m., "Tough Guys Don't Dance." On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Bean."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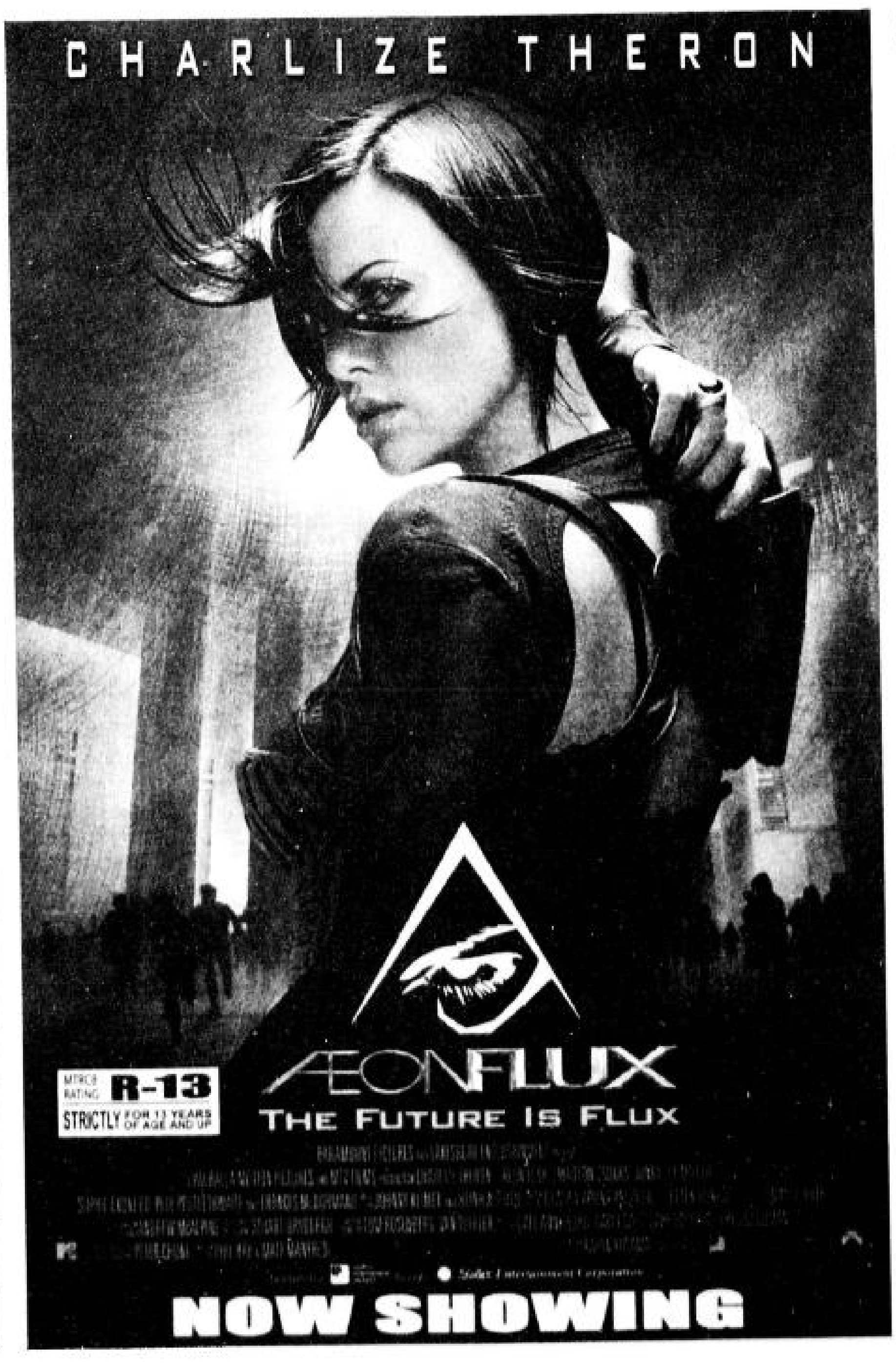

Spotlight

From page A2-4

referred to as America's Sweetheart.

She married the dashing Douglas Fairbanks in 1920 and became Hollywood royalty. The couple's high-profile union was considered by many "a dream come true."

By 1928, she had tired of her girlish image and cut off her long curls to appear in her first talkie, "Coquette." The radical transformation of look and screen character won her an Academy Award.

Lovers

When she and Fairbanks starred as the volatile lovers in "Taming of the Shrew," the daring Shakespearean adaptation was shunned by her stunned fans—who stayed away from her two succeeding films.

That audience response virtually ended Pickford's career. She retired in 1933.

Pickford had bought many of her silent films with the initial intention of burning them upon her death. But, in 1970, she decided to donate them—along with 130 more of her films—to the American Film Institute.

Relevant considerations for selection of National Artists

By Nestor U. Torre

AS THE PROCESS FOR CHOOSING the latest batch of National Artists proceeds apace, we are asked about the "right" age for an artist to "deserve" the country's highest artistic honor.

Should the award come at the end of an artist's exceptional career? Should it be awarded early enough to "inspire" a middle-aged artist to a new burst of creativity? What about posthumous awardees, should they be given another award instead?

Posthumous

Last things first: The problem with posthumous awardees, especially in fields like cinema, where few really old movies have survived the onus of time, decay and neglect, is that deceased artists' past works are no longer available for viewing and evaluation.

So, we must depend on printed reviews and the recollections of nominees' surviving contemporaries.

In the light of these substantial limitations, it could be a good idea to honor deceased TV-Film artists with another, similarly substantial honor.

Should only senior artists win National Artist awards? By no means. What we should look for is an exceptional body of work, enough to prove that the recipient is an outstanding artist and an inspiring leader in his field.

For instance, Napoleon Abueva won his National Artist award for sculpture when he was *only* 46 years old—the youngest to have been honored!

Yardstick

By that yardstick, we could already consider the likes of Ryan Cayabyab (for music) and Mike de Leon (for film). Some people may think they're "too young," but Abueva's example would counter that.

Like Abueva when he won his award in 1976, Cayabyab and De Leon have already come up with significant and consistently superior works that affirm their excellence.

Youthful

Aside from giving credit where credit is due, relatively youthful National Artists would make the awards more dynamic and "now" than ever, and inspire young artists to be similarly creative, productive and committed in their own careers.

At this writing, we don't know what the screening committees for film and msuic have decided, so we'll have to wait for their list of finalists to be released.

Principle

We're not trying to second-guess them, we're only addressing a principle that's larger and more relevant and important than artists' individual identities.

ABUEVA. Won his award when he was only 46 years old.

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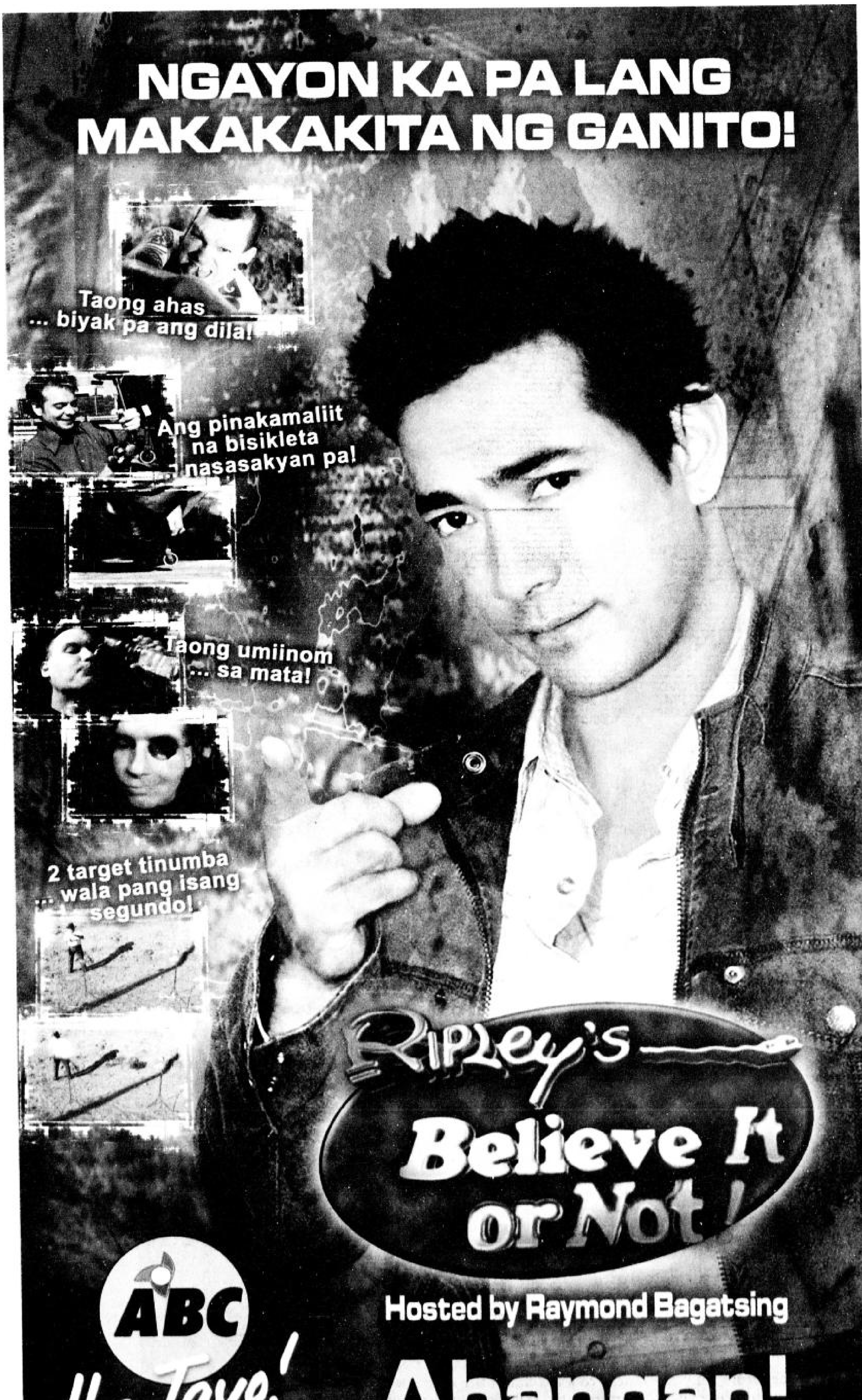
NGAYON KA PA LANG MAKAKAKITA NG GANITO!
Taong ahas ... biyak pa ang dila!
Ang pinakamaliit na bisikleta nasasakyan pa!
Taong umiinom ... sa mata!
2 target tinumba ... wala pang isang segundo!
Ripley's Believe It or Not!
Hosted by Raymond Bagatsing
ABC Iba Tayo!
Abangan!

Uneven mix of a cappella treats

By Noelani Torre

SOMETIMES A PERSON GETS TIRED OF the largely electronic, synthesizer-supported flavor of today's pop music. One alternative would be to listen to acoustic acts that have mushroomed everywhere in the past few years. But, if you're in search for a more stripped-down sound, well, you can always go *a cappella*.

Human voice

A cappella literally means "from the chapel," but as we know it today, what it really means is singing *without* instrumental accompaniment. It's often been said that the human voice is already the best instrument there is, but it does take a back seat at times—which is why the spare beauty of *a cappella* singing can still take you by surprise now and then.

Not that an *a cappella* piece is necessarily simple. Artists are getting more and more creative. In fact, a lot of "just singing" numbers out there are as complex as your most multi-layered, synth-augmented song—particularly when they involve more than one singer, like the ones in Jam 88.3's *a cappella* compilation, "The Blend: A Jam-cappella Album."

The main act featured in this collection is Akafellas, an eight-man group composed of tenors Ikey Canoy, Jhett Baroma, Reuben Uy, Karl Villuga, Robi Joseph, and basses Paulo Navarra, Roger Sigwa and DJ Myke Salomon.

They open the CD with four numbers: the originals, "A Cappella Music Jam" and "One In Me," and reinterpretations of Francis Magalona's "Kaleidoscope World" and John Mayer's "Your Body Is A Wonderland." They also provide the album's last song, "Jam 88.3 Theme."

Quirky

Talented, stylish, and quirky enough to be interesting, they deliver smooth, enjoyable performances that most of the compilation's other featured artists can't quite match.

This is particularly true in the case of the group, Live Sound, whose reworking of Des'ree's "You Gotta Be" is not quite up to par. For one, it's all over the place, and the lead singers' vocal curlicues are just plain irritating.

Another less than enjoyable track is Fil-Am Dave Boholst's self-penned "I Come." Though his sentiments are worthy, the wording is suspect (e.g. "to be near with you"), and the delivery is nasal and whiny.

In the end, the album's uneven mix of material, and the fact that it clocks in at *only* 35 minutes in its entirety, renders it too slight to warrant serious consideration.

Mr. and Ms Dragonboat 2006 launched

THE PHILIPPINE Dragon Boat Federation (PDBF) held the first canvassing of ballots for the search for 2006 Mr. and Ms Dragonboat last Jan. 22 during the 3rd leg of Jam 88.3's Dragon Boat Regatta Races at the Baywalk in Manila Bay. From 17 candidates, Clarice Calolot (right) of the DLSU Dragonboat Team and Arvin Gilmore (left) of the Manila Blazing Paddles led the first canvassing. Ballot tickets were also raffled. Winners were B. Lopez (first prize), roundtrip ticket to any Philippine destination sponsored by Fiesta Tours, and Rey Tolentino (second prize), gift certificates courtesy of Extreme Concepts. The next ballot canvassing is scheduled next month. Email phildragonboat@yahoo.com.

Learning . . .

From page A2-5

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* * *

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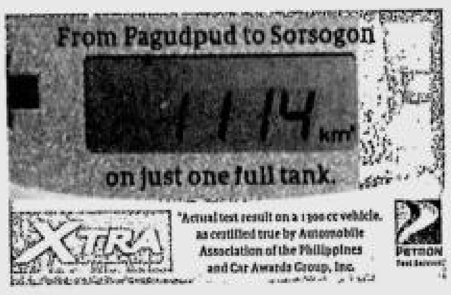
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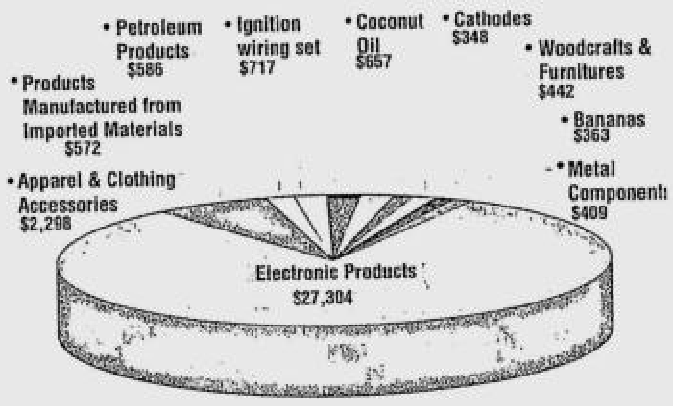
INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Exports up slightly

TOTAL exports increased by 3.89 percent to $41.2 billion from $39.7 billion in 2004. The top ten exports comprised 81.7 percent of the total.

2005 Exports (in million US dollars)



Source: National Statistics Office

Chona Galang, PDI Research

Faster way to privatize Napocor plants, transmission facilities

By Michelle V. Remo

ALBAY REP. JOEY SALCEDA HAS PROPOSED THE CONSOLIDATION of the country's state-owned power firms into a so-called "Philippine Power Transmission and Generation Corp." and the sale of its shares to the public to fast-track the completion of the power sector privatization plan.

Salceda, an economic adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters he had raised this suggestion to the Chief Executive and that he proposed that this be done this year following delays in the privatization of the government's power assets.

"The President is now seriously studying this," Salceda said at the sidelines of an economic forum organized by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

The legislator said selling the shares of state-owned firms—National Power Corp. and National Transmission Corp. (Transco)—through a listing on the stock exchange would be a much easier way of completing the privatization plan.

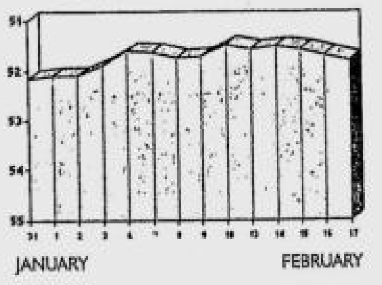
Under his proposal, the government will initially sell 60 percent of the Philippine Power Transmission and Generation Corp. and hold the remaining 40 percent. He said the national government could take charge of the firm's management at first, and then let a private sector controlling the biggest share to take over.

Salceda said that should the government fail to sell publicly all 60 percent, then it could find "strategic partners" to purchase the re-

PUBLIC/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Feb. 17, 2006

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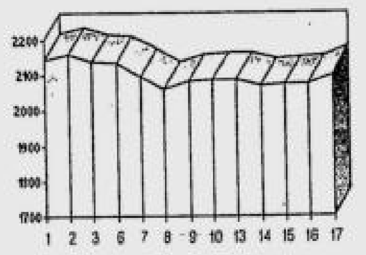
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 17, 2006

GOLD: $540.30-540.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 16, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Stocks advance 1.2%

SHARES ADVANCED YESTERDAY on gains made by select blue chips led by Globe Telecom.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 25.74 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,102.16.

STOCKS/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

ePLDT acquires majority of Ragnarok maker /B3

Slower GDP growth seen in 2006 /B5

24 firms seen bidding for Napocor assets

By Abigail L. Ho

TWENTY-FOUR LOCAL AND FOREIGN investor groups are keen on joining the bidding for four National Power Corp. generation facilities that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has lined up for privatization.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said the investor groups had expressed interest in joining the auction for the 600-megawatt (MW) Calaca coal-fired power plant, the 360-MW Magat geothermal facility, the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plants, and the 660-MW Tiwi-Makban geothermal facility.

PSALM said these interested investors were composed of an Australian, a European, five American, 12 Filipino, two Japanese and three Asian groups.

The state agency added that 11 of the 24 investors were looking at just one plant, seven were looking at acquiring two plants, five were considering bidding for three plants and one was keen on buying all four plants.

While declining to name any of the interested entities, citing confidentiality agreements, PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said an investor bidding for a hydropower plant had already acquired one of the five hydropower facilities that PSALM sold in 2004.

PSALM had also sold the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant for $561.74 million to the YNN Pacific Consortium.

The government firm said four of the 24 investor groups would be bidding for the Calaca plant, while 13 would be joining the auction for the Magat geothermal facility.

The Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plants also had 13 potential bidders, while the Tiwi-Makban geothermal facility had 15 prospective investors.

The Calaca, Pantabangan-Masiway and Tiwi-Makban power facilities were scheduled to be auctioned within the first half, while the Magat generation plant was slated for bidding within the third quarter.

PSALM was not able to sell even a single plant last year.

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Stocks advance 1.2%

From page B1

Globe provided the biggest boost to the index, with a gain of 7.8 percent to close at P830, as several analysts shifted the country's second-largest telecommunications group in assets back to their "buy" lists.

Among those who made the shift was Macquarie Securities' senior analyst Gilbert Lopez, who cited the favorable earnings picture and valuation of Globe. Lopez said he has upgraded Globe to "outperform" from "underperform."

Globe is still trading below its median price target of P892.50, based on a Thomson Financial survey of 10 analysts.

Rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., or PLDT, was the most actively traded stock, gaining 0.6 percent to finish at P1,770 on 132,280 shares traded, following a 2.1-percent advance by the company's American depositary receipts in New York Thursday. A Thomson Financial survey estimated the stock's median price target at P2,075.

The market also got a boost from technical rebounds staged by several issues, said AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan. Among them, SM Prime, which rose 1.3 percent to P8. *AP*

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOBODY CAN BELIEVE THAT THIS CUTE administration of Gloriaetta was just too busy to do the math on the VAT (expanded VAT) that took effect this month.

But let us say indeed they were busy doing nothing, and none of them realized that the 2-percentage point increase in the VAT meant an increase of 20 percent.

Such a huge increase is not a joke, more so because we all know that the additional revenue from VAT will not mean additional money for the government.

It will just go to the payment of debts—particularly the P200 billion in debts that our beloved power company Napocor transferred to the national government.

Of course we all pay for those P200 billion! With our taxes! Like the 20-percent increase in VAT! Buhay ka pa!

***

NOW here comes the Napocor president—a veteran, er, "consultant" named Cyril del Callar—announcing the good news that Napocor "broke even" in 2005.

Del Callar also did not forget to mention that the government power corporation has been bleeding for the past seven years.

(Translation: Under Del Callar, the company did better by breaking even.)

What's more, based on wire reports quoting Del Callar, he talked about the need for him and other Napocor officials to "sustain the performance."

PERFORMANCE? Does it mean that Napocor broke even because of the best management performance of Del Callar? Well, maybe! Or maybe not!

You see, the biggest factor behind Napocor's breaking even was, precisely, the transfer of those P200 billion debts to the taxpayers.

Another important factor should be the strong peso (versus the dollar) last year.

In other words, the "break even" PERFORMANCE of Napocor, all that good news, was just mathematics.

I mean, it will take more than just praise, este, "press" releases from Del Callar to convince us that Napocor last year had a better ... well, "performance."

Performance, to us down here in my barangay, should show in our beastly electricity bills, okay! Not through overacting in the dailies!

***

AND may I please remind our heroes in Napocor, including those lurking in the shadows (such as that consultant of Gloriaetta in Malacañang who used to be a Cabinet member), that Napocor also incurred more debts last year, amounting to more than P40 billion.

And that, right after Napocor transferred P200 billion of debts to you, ladies and gentlemen, who must shoulder the 20-percent increase in VAT!

By the way, Napocor is also proud to announce that it wants to borrow some P35 billion more this year.

At the same time, the Napocor spin-off company called PSALM also told us that it will soon absorb some P25 billion more of Napocor's debts.

What a minute—do I see a pattern here! And so after Napocor transfers its debts, it borrows some more, and then what? It transfers more debts to somebody else again.

The saddest part is, the Napocor mafia is working overtime to delay its privatization. The syndicate, from what I hear, is lobbying in Congress to amend the Epira law, which requires the privatization of Napocor.

Why do you think there was a spate of good news (i.e. praise release) about the company lately?

Public stock ...

From page B1

maining shares.

He said the privatization plan for the power sector should be given due attention since it is partly to blame for the government's fiscal problems. He noted that the government has spent some P225 billion over the last five years paying for debts of Napocor.

Salceda said investors in the proposed consolidated power firm would not be made to shoulder the huge debts of Napocor. Some P200 billion worth of Napocor debts have already been assumed by the government.

The assumption of Napocor's debts by the national government was in compliance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which calls for reforming the power sector through privatization of power assets and assumption by government of the sector's debts to make it attractive to investors.

The Big Malaysia Tee-off

AIM to hold AIM President's Cup 2006 in Kuala Lumpur

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Alumni Association-Philippine Chapter and the Kelab AIM Malaysia will be hosting the AIM President's Cup 2006, on February 18, 2006 at the Perangsang Templer Golf Club, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The AIM President's Cup 2006 is part of a three-day affair that would bring together AIM alumni from all over the globe. This event is will start on February 16, 2006 and is open to both golfers and non-golfers. Other activities in this three-day affair include city and shopping tours, a business conference, a Chinese New Year Open House hosted by Kelab AIM Malaysia, and an Appreciation Dinner hosted by AIM Filipino participants.

This event is sponsored by Smart, Petron, Callaway Golf and Red Crab.

For details about this event, please call (632) 892.4011 locals 2103, 2105, 340 or 331 or email alumni@aim.edu.

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Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

DAY 1 (February 23, 2006/ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

PCE Recognition of Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teachers / Students / Programs by PCE • FORUM 1: Building National Confidence and Optimism To Inspire More Successful Filipino Entrepreneurs - Moderators: Rico Hizon & Anna Marie Periquet - Panelists: Socorro Ramos, Hon. Jose Concepcion III, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Atty. Felipe Gozon, Vivienne Tan, Henry Lim Bon Liong, Rodrigo Rivera, Marixi Prieto*, Grace Glory Go • LUNCH BREAK TOPIC: Feng Shui Master Charlie Chao's Business Outlook • FORUM 2: A Global Market Beckons The Filipino Entrepreneur - Panelists: Dennis Mendiola, Dr. Paco Sandejas, Guillermo Luchangco, Ben Colayco, Menardo Jimenez Jr. • FORUM 3: Uncommon Heroes for the Common Good - Panelists:Dr. Justin Arboleda, Francisco Colayco, Ray Gapuz Jr., Rina Lopez-Bautista*, Dylan Wilk, Gerry Geronimo* • Breeding The Entrepreneurial Mindset and Culture By Raju Mandhyan • FORUM 4: New Approaches in Entrepreneurship Education • CULMINATING FORUM: Triggering the Age of Entrepreneurship in the Philippines - Panelists:Sec. Arthur Yap, Sec. Estrella Alabastro, Chairman Carlito Puno, OIC/Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Executive Director Gondelina Amata, Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte*, Linda Wirth*, Johnlu Koa, Prof. Josephine Aguilar

DAY 2 (February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Opening Ceremonies Cutting of Ribbon:VP Noli de Castro, Sen.Manuel Villar, Sen. Manuel Roxas II,Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.,Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Cong.Wilhelmino Alvarado, Mayor Rosendo Capco, Mayor Freddie Tinga, Government Officials, Partner Organizations • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Business Plan Competition Brief: PCE/PESO, CFBC, ENEDA, JCI, HSBC, TIES, ONIA, GEN-P • Easy Tips on How to Start a Retail Business and How to Supply to Retailers - By: Steven T. Cua • "Elevator Pitch" Exhibition by Business Plan Contest Winners & Runners-up • Funding Options for Outstanding Business Plans • Easy on the pocket Business Ideas By: Food Cart Association of the Philippines • Awarding of PCE-ENEDA Cup Winners • GO NEGOSYO Concert with Orange and Lemons at the Central Plaza, Market! Market!

DAY 3 (February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Franchise Your Business An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Safeguarding and Optimizing Your Intellectual Capital - By: Intellectual Property Office

*final list of speakers for confirmation

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ePLDT acquires majority of Ragnarok maker

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TECHNOLOGY ARM OF PHILIPpine Long Distance Telephone Co. is buying a majority stake in the company that made the hit game Ragnarok to get a bigger slice of the fast-growing Internet gaming market.

"The acquisition of Level Up! is consistent with the PLDT Group's strategy to bring rich and compelling content to its Internet subscribers and users and eventually its mobile subscribers as well," said ePLDT president Ray Espinosa in a statement.

ePLDT bought 60 percent of Ragnarok maker Level Up! Inc. from the Singaporean owner, Level Up! International Holdings Pte. Ltd.

Espinosa also said ePLDT would merge Level Up! with its wholly-owned subsidiary, netGames, by the first quarter of 2007.

The merged entity, Level Up! netGames will end up controlling 90 percent of the online gaming market in the Philippines, ePLDT said.

The merger of Level Up! and netGames was viewed as the right step in growing the Philippine online gaming market.

Espinosa said both ePLDT and Level Up! were optimistic that with the right content and operational efficiencies, the merger would produce a robust and dynamic online gaming industry that would benefit the player community as well as Internet cafés, distribution systems, telcos and Internet providers.

The technology unit of PLDT also controls Netopia, a company putting up Internet cafés all over the country.

"As ePLDT brings richer and more compelling content to the market, it is anticipated that demand for wired and wireless broadband services will further increase," Espinosa added.

Level Up! is the pioneer and leading publisher of online games in the country, with about an 80 percent share of the online game market, through its portfolio of games.

In 2005, Level Up! launched ROSE Online, a full 3D role-playing game from Gravity; and RF Online, a three-way race vs race game in a sci-fi/fantasy setting, written by another Korean developer, CCR Inc.

It also recently introduced two games—Hyper Relay, a free-to-play arcade-style gaming suite licensed from Singaporean publisher Teckwah Online Pte. Ltd., and the now popular Free Style Online, a hip-hop-influenced street basketball game from JC Entertainment Co. Ltd., another Korean developer.

These games contribute to Level Up!'s dominant 80-percent share of the online gaming market.

"Both content and alternative channels of connectivity and distribution, as well as media, are growing and helping to expand the market.

"As a member of the PLDT group, Level Up! will be able to take advantage of the many synergies with PLDT's leadership in this sector," Level Up! said in a statement.

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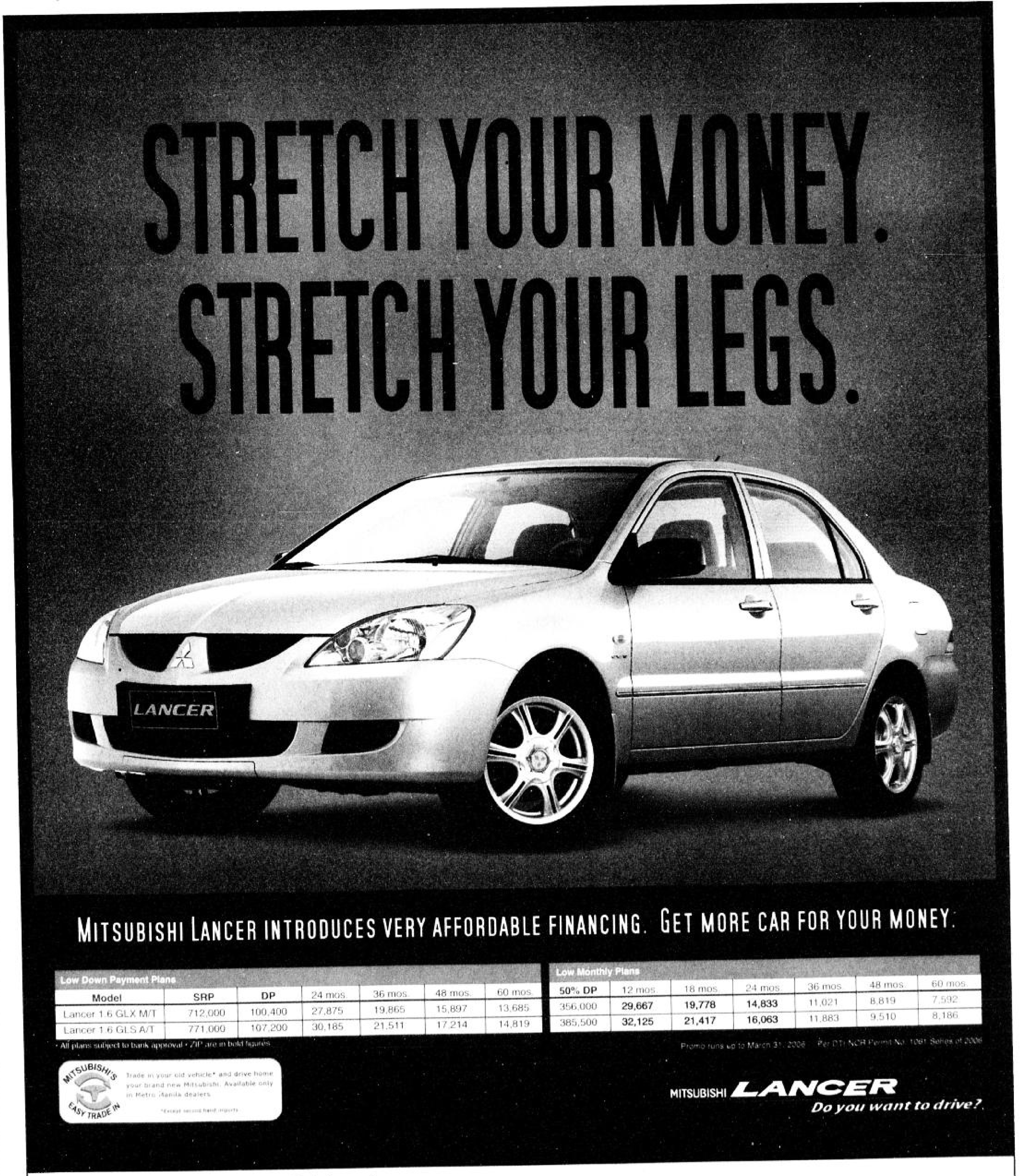

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Wanted: Accreditation body for anti-obesity surgeons

By Tessa R. Salazar

OF THREE MILLION Filipinos who are overweight and obese, 20 percent are morbidly obese (those whose body mass index, or BMI, reaches or exceeds 40).

Morbidly obese people have been likened to a ticking time bomb. The World Health Organization estimates that more than one billion people worldwide are overweight, and at least 300 million of them are obese. It also estimates that 115 million of them would develop life-threatening medical conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer and hypertension.

When the problem cannot be solved by diet and exercise, the morbidly obese have no other recourse but to go under the knife for a bariatric surgery, an operation of the stomach or intestines.

This is where the next obstacle lies: finding the right surgeon to competently perform it.

Dr. Ferdinand Samonte, a bariatric surgeon at the Center for Obesity Control of the De Los Santos Medical Center, observed that some surgeons perform bariatric operations even though they do not specialize in it.

"It's a question of public safety. [Every surgeon] wants to go into [bariatric surgery] because he or she is capable of doing the surgery. But are they dedicated bariatric surgeons?" asked Samonte, one of the founders of the Philippine Obesity Control Surgery Team Inc.

"Sad to say, there are some surgeons who go into bariatrics for the [prestige], and not due to their dedication. That's scary. We [cannot] stop these people. We don't have the right to tell them what is and is not allowable."

World body

Samonte said the lack of a world accreditation body that would certify bariatric surgeons would be discussed during a meeting of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obese in Sydney in September.

Samonte said the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity require that at least 60 percent to 70 percent of a surgeon's practice be focused on bariatric surgery for obesity control.

Currently, Filipino doctors who want to specialize in bariatric surgery need to go to the United States, Australia, India or Singapore for training. They also need to perform a certain number of operations before they could be declared bariatric surgeons.

Safeguards

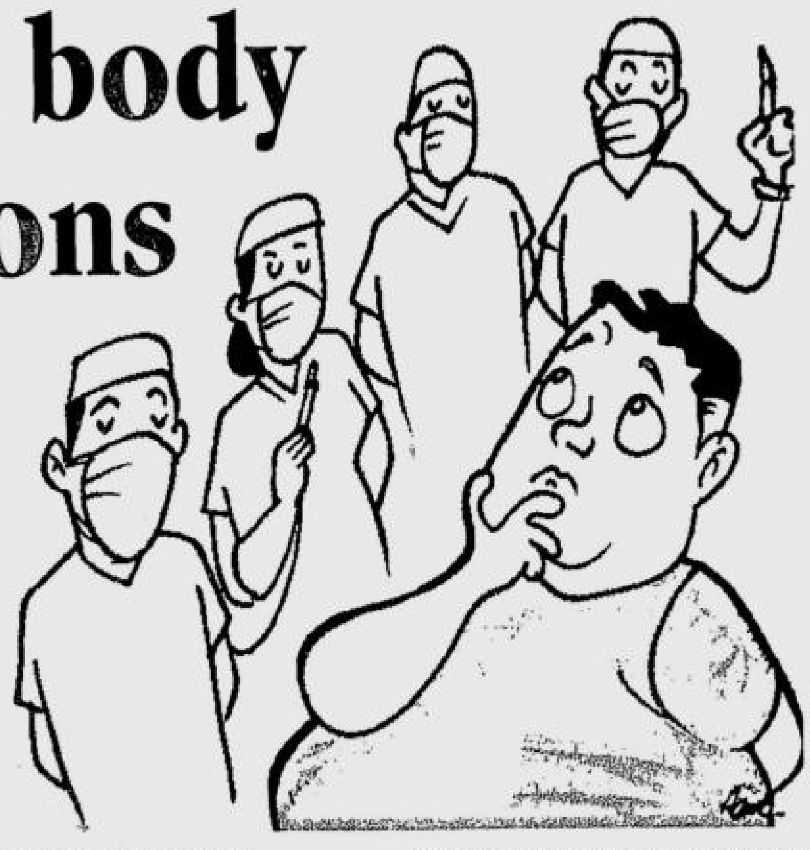
In the meantime, to ensure public safety, the Bureau of Food and Drugs controls the release of the bands used in bariatric surgery.

"Not just any surgeon or hospital can get them. They are new devices and BFAD wants to make sure that the surgeons who will use these bands are competent and skilled to use them," said Dr. Rey Melchor Santos, president of the Philippine Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons.

He said that in the United States, deaths have resulted from botched bariatric surgeries.

"That is why they are now controlling the procedures. They now designate which hospitals and which surgeons can perform the procedure," he said.

AIMED, the local distributor of the lapband, said it was also controlling the distribution of the product.



"We only sell to doctors who are fully trained in the procedure," said AIMED president Bong Chan.

The lapband, comprising mainly of an inflatable band placed around the upper part of the stomach, is installed laparoscopically (guided by fiber optic scopes). The resulting new, small upper stomach pouch and the narrowed outlet limit the stomach capacity and increase the patient's feeling of fullness. It thus reduces the patient's food intake and results in weight loss.

The Philippine Obesity Control Surgery Team Inc., a group of doctors trained in bariatric surgery, is also doing its share by laying down the groundwork for the accreditation of hospitals where bariatric procedures could be done.

Viral gastroenteritis

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

I JUST HAD MY WORST BOUT of gastroenteritis, making me lose 10 pounds in three days. And it came right on the first day of a medical convention we organized, so our three-day convention became a challenging struggle to remain functional despite my dehydrated body.

The silver lining was that I lost two inches of waistline, hopefully consisting of the excess intra-abdominal or visceral fats that, according to a lecture of endocrinologist Mary Ann Lim-Abrahan, are associated with a higher incidence of heart attacks and strokes.

Losing weight and some waistline via a rotavirus infection of the gut is certainly a radical way to lose weight and I don't think I'll ever recommend that to our patients.

More severe symptoms

Dr. Abdias "Bong" Aquino notes that his patients with acute gastroenteritis are presenting with more severe symptoms nowadays. Although milder forms may last only a day or two, other cases may last from three to eight days. Aside from vomiting and diarrhea, it may also come with a low-grade fever, stomach cramps, headache or muscle pains.

Rotavirus is still the most common cause of infectious diarrhea and people with infected with it are generally contagious for about 10 days after symptoms appear.

Antibiotics aren't effective against most viruses that cause gastroenteritis, so one should curb the impulse to take an antibiotic immediately. Overusing them can contribute to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria.

What to do

The following are recommended when one has gastroenteritis:

- Allow the stomach to rest and settle by not eating and drinking for a few hours.
- To prevent dehydration, one can try hydrating solutions. One may also drink clear soda, clear broths, or noncaffeinated sports drinks. The volume of liquids taken in should more or less replace the volume lost due to the diarrhea.
- When the diarrhea subsides, gradually begin to eat bland, easy-to-digest food such as soda crackers, toast, gelatin, bananas, rice and chicken.
- Avoid certain foods including dairy products, caffeine, alcohol, nicotine and fatty or highly seasoned foods.
- Get plenty of rest. The diarrhea and dehydration may make you weak and tired.

Prevention

Health experts recommend the following precautions to prevent the spread of intestinal infections:

- Hand-washing is still the simplest, but the most important preventive measure. The right technique has to be emphasized though. It's best to use warm water and soap and to rub hands vigorously for at least 10 seconds, around cuticles, beneath the fingernails and in the creases of the hands. Then rinse thoroughly. Towelettes may be used at times when soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid sharing eating utensils, glasses and plates. Use separate towels in the bathroom.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has the virus.

Precautions for travelers

When traveling, one should take the following precautions:

- Drink only well-sealed bottled water.
- Avoid ice cubes, since it might have been made from contaminated water.
- Use bottled water to brush your teeth.
- Avoid raw food, including peeled fruits, raw vegetables and salads, that has been touched by human hands.
- Avoid undercooked meat and fish.

Most cases of viral gastroenteritis will subside in a few days. Seek medical attention if you have been vomiting for more than two days, have a 38.3 degrees Celsius, are vomiting or passing out blood in the stools, or are becoming dehydrated.

Signs of dehydration include excessive thirst, dry mouth, deep yellow urine or little or no urine, and severe weakness, dizziness or lightheadedness.

Dental technology new opportunity for Pinoys

THERE IS A PROMISING course that students might want to consider taking up: dental technology.

According to Dr. Manolet B. Santos, chair of the Emilio Aguinaldo College-College of Dentistry's Department of Prosthodontics, local and foreign employment for dental technicians are "endless."

He said a dental technician who is already certified in the Philippines would not need to take state board exams or any other certification test in most countries anymore.

The EAC started offering the two-year course last November in partnership with Skytech Laboratories Inc., a manufacturer of world-class fixed and removable dentures, porcelain and crown bridges.

Excellent craftsmen

Skytech CEO and president Wilma Redler said they decided to enter into a partnership with EAC because although Filipinos were "excellent craftsmen," no schools were offering proper training for dental technicians.

Skytech, an outsourcing company that has been doing business in the Philippines for almost a decade, had to train its employees for eight months before they could work as technicians.

Skytech's major clients are in the United States. Its laboratories in Sta. Mesa, Manila, operate 24 hours a day. On the average, it exports 9,000 units every month. The orders keep increasing and there's an urgent need for more technicians.

Dentist, technician

EAC president Jose Paulo Campos said there is a proposal for government to require dental technology as a pre-dentistry course. This way, a student can already start earning while studying to become a dentist.

Redler said there is a big difference between a dental technician and a dentist. Both deal with teeth but each has his own expertise. "A dental technician never touches the mouth of a person, while a dentist only knows the theories of making crowns," she said.

Ateneo High School Math Olympiad

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE ATENEO MATH OLYMPIAD (AMO), now in its fourth year, aims to showcase the skills and mindset acquired by elementary and high school students after training for almost a year under talented college science volunteers.

The brainchild of Ateneo President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., the AMO is patterned after the International Math Olympiad (IMO), the most prestigious competition of its kind in the world. In a three-hour individual round, Ateneo students, plus students from various schools honed by the Mathematics Trainers Guild, try their best to solve three challenging problems posed by Philippine IMO coach Dr. Jose Marasigan.

Thirty-five students competed in the high school level, while double the number matched wits in the elementary rounds. Awarding ceremonies for the secondary level were held last January. A month later, the rites for the grade school were held.

High school level

The problems went beyond the usual classroom math. This week we look at the complex problems given for high school. The first three were given to freshmen and sophomores, and the last three to juniors and seniors. The third problem was given to all.

1. Cities A, B and C are connected to each other by several roads, with at least one road connecting each pair of cities. In going from A to B one can go directly on one of the roads joining them, or one can travel from A to C on one of the rods joining A and C and then travel all. There are 33 routes from A to B (including those via C). Similarly, there are 23 routes from B to C (including those via A). How many routes are there from A to C (including those via B)?

2. Let $f(x) = x^2 + ax + b$, where a and b are integers, and $/b/ < 800$. Suppose $f(120)$ is prime. Prove that $f(x) = 0$ has no solution in integers.

Urn with balls

3. In a large urn there are 75 white balls and 150 black ones; beside the urn is a pile of black balls. Now, the following two-step operation is performed repeatedly. First, two balls are drawn at random from the urn and then

a. if they are both black, one of them is put back and the other is discarded,

b. if one is black and the other white, the white is put back and the black is discarded,

c. if they are both white, they are both discarded and a black ball from the pile is put into the urn.

Eventually, the urn will reach the point of containing just a single ball. The question is: "What is the color of this last ball?"

4. Find all triples of positive integers (x,y,z) such that $(1 + 1/x)(1 + 1/y)(1 + 1/z) = 2$.

5. It is possible to place positive integers into the 21 vacant cells of the given 5 x 5 array shown below so that the numbers in each row and in each column form an arithmetic progression. Determine the number that must be in the cell marked *

			*	
	74			
				186
		103		
0				

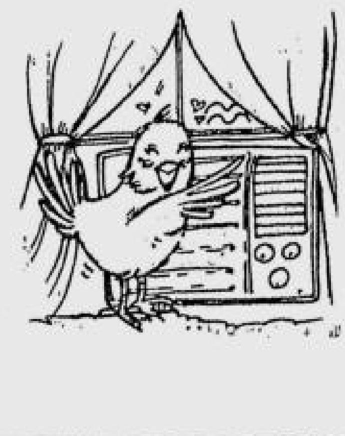
Dr. Marasigan, Dr. Flor Francisco and I, from the College Math Department, judged the contestants' solutions based on accuracy, clarity and creativity.

For the first time in AMO history, a student got a perfect score for detailed solutions to the problems: Emerson Escolar of Grace Christian High School.

Other gold medalists were Nellie Margaret Chua (Chiang Kai Shek College) and Carlo Francisco Adajar (PAREF Southridge School). Silver medalists were Jonathan Aldric Chua and Patrick Adrian Ong (Saint Jude Catholic School); Alvin Belleza, Diogo Miguel Moitinho de Almeida (Ateneo High School); and Joanna Tan (Jubilee Christian Academy). Bronze medalists were Davin Carlos Choi (Chiang Kai Shek); Edmund Vincent Soriano and Emmanuel Lance Christopher Plan VI (Ateneo).

Kimchi air-conditioner to fight bird flu

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREAN FIRM LG Electronics is poised to start marketing an air conditioner with a filter made from an enzyme from the pungent national dish kimchi that is aimed at protecting against the bird flu virus.



Kimchi, typically made from pickled radish or cabbage packed with garlic, ginger and hot peppers, is renowned for its supposed health benefits, as well as its powerful odor.

An LG spokesperson cited four studies from domestic and overseas institutions that showed the filter eliminated the deadly H5N1 virus.

Over the years, kimchi has frequently been billed as a miracle food with an amazing array of health benefits. During the SARS crisis in 2003, many Koreans believed eating kimchi helped ward off the disease.

LG plans to start marketing the air-conditioners in China and Southeast Asia. The appliances would not transmit the unmistakable kimchi smell because filters are made with only the enzyme extracted from kimchi.

The H5N1 avian flu virus has killed 91 people since late 2003, the majority of them in Asia. Though the virus remains hard for people to catch, scientists say it is steadily mutating and could acquire the ability to pass easily between people, triggering a pandemic.

Reuters

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

White stain

MY FRONT TOOTH HAS A white stain that resulted when I banged my tooth on the floor when I was a child. My dentist says he can scrape the white stain out and replace it with a white filling. Is there another way?—Bong D.

There are two ways to address your problem. First, you can apply a gel called tooth mousse that contains calcium so that the white stain absorbs the calcium it lacks and thus be less white.

Second, you can go to a dentist who can put makeup on your tooth. This masks the white stain without scraping the tooth. Most of my patients like these two methods because they are very conservative and noninvasive.

Slower GDP growth seen in 2006

Analysts' forecasts are way below gov't targets

By Michelle Remo
and Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC GROWTH this year is expected to be slower than what the government is hoping for.

Based on the projections of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, the domestic economy is expected to expand by 5 to 5.5 percent this year.

But according to Cielito Habito of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development, the figure may fall to between 4.7 and 5.1 percent this year.

The country's economic growth last year was pegged at 5.1 percent.

BDO's forecast for gross domestic product this year was slightly lower than the government's targeted range of 6.3 and 7.3 percent, as based on the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

"The expanded value added tax and generally improved tax collection could give the government some elbow room to increase government spending to spur the economy," said Jonathan Ravelas, BDO chief strategist in a recent economic report. "The upside, though, may be tempered by these very same factors, weighing down on private consumption."

Among the challenges to economic growth this year will be inflationary pressures due to rising oil prices and cost of materials that may hurt the power, transportation and distribution sectors, Ravelas said.

But he said average inflation should be manageable this year at 7-7.5 percent compared to the 7.7 percent posted last year.

According to Habito, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), a relatively low world economic growth—seen at only 3 percent this year by the International Monetary Fund—would have dampening effects on the Philippine economy through lower demand for its exports.

The country's export sector is also seen to feel the effects of an appreciating peso, which is said to make Philippine-made products more expensive and less competitive than their foreign counterparts.

Habito said consumer spending is seen to be adversely affected this year by an accelerated inflation which, according to the Ateneo's Macroeconomic Forecasting Model, would hit between 7.3 and 7.7 percent.

GMA 7 gets SEC nod to increase capital

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GMA NETWORK INC. (GMA 7), the country's most profitable television firm, is hiking its capital to P5 billion in preparation for its planned maiden offering of shares to the public.

GMA 7, which at present has an authorized capital of P2 billion, has secured the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to hike its capital.

Sources said the increase in capital is in line with the possible issuance of secondary shares during its proposed public offer this year. The proposed public offer will be a combination of both secondary and new shares, sources said.

GMA 7 has tapped Deutsche Bank and ATR Kim Eng Capital as underwriters for its IPO.

GMA 7 is currently owned and controlled by three major shareholder groups: the Duavit Group, which owns 35 percent; the Jimenez Group, with 35 percent, and the Gozon group, with 30 percent.

Among the major shareholders which have subscribed to the P3-billion capital increase are Group Management & Development of the Duavit Group, FLG Management and Development Inc., Gozon Development Corp., and Gozon Foundation of the Gozon family, M.A. Jimenez Enterprises and Television International Corp. of the Jimenez family, and other minority shareholders.

In earlier filings with the SEC, GMA 7 proposed to form a special purpose company to issue special shares or Philippine Deposit Receipts in line with its planned IPO.

In a concept paper presented to the SEC last year, GMA 7 proposed that the new company, which will be organized by shareholders of the television firm, will acquire existing or secondary shares of GMA 7, as well as new shares to be issued.

The new company will then create and issue Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs)—or shares that have economic benefits, such as cash, stock or property dividends, but none of its voting powers—to investors.

The PDRs will serve as a tool to generate interest among institutional investors.

Since the new company is to be owned by shareholders of GMA 7, it will remain wholly owned by Filipinos, in compliance with foreign ownership restrictions of broadcasting companies.

As a company engaged in mass media, GMA 7 is subject to restrictions under the Constitution, which reserves ownership and management of mass media firms only to Philippine citizens or corporations.

GMA 7 plans to offer to the public some 20-30 percent of its total outstanding stock. The common shares and PDRs are separate securities to be sold.

SOAKED SMOKES

Tobacco growers of Candon, Ilocos Sur are preparing Virginia tobacco leaves about to be placed in a curing barn. Relentless rain in January destroyed over P25 million worth of tobacco in Candon City alone.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Reynolds up for bid anew after Sino buyer backs out

A SHANGHAI-BASED ALUMINUM scrap company has backed out of a P365-million deal to buy assets of foreclosed Reynolds Philippines Corp. (RPC), prompting four creditor-banks to rethink their disposal options.

"The creditor-consortium has declared the buyer in default ... [Reynolds] is for sale again," said Omar Salvo, first vice president of Land Bank of the Philippines which had the biggest exposure to the defunct aluminum maker.

"We are still discussing our options," Salvo said at the sidelines of a recent Landbank press briefing.

Salvo said that the consortium are left with two options, the first of which was to conduct a direct rebidding of RPC's assets.

"We can get an outfit to auction it for us—get an international broker or auctioneer," he said.

Late last year, the consortium—which also includes Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., RCBC Savings Bank and AsiaTrust Development Bank—awarded the Chinese firm the right to buy RPC's building and equipment in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"The buyer was not able to make the payment, so the consortium cancelled the transaction and forfeited the P5-million deposit," he said.

After selling the assets, the creditors were supposed to divide the proceeds based on their share of exposure. Landbank has the biggest share of 53 percent, followed by Metrobank with 38 percent.

Also, the consortium is evaluating offers from reputable property developers on potential joint venture on the land where the foreclosed plant stood. The property, which is near the SM City in Dasmariñas, is about 12 hectares and valued at about P510 million.

"It was decided that the property will be held by the consortium," according to a source. "They all agreed that the property is valuable.

Doris C. Dumlao

China ship line to dock on ICTSI port

SINOTRANS CONTAINER LINES Co., Ltd., China's third largest international shipping line, is the newest client of International Container Terminal Services, Inc.'s at its flagship Manila International Container Terminal.

The Chinese shipping firm's expansion in the country was in response to the increase in demand for shipping services between China and the Philippines.

Sinolines is scheduled to call at the Manila terminal once a week through its SXM Service, which plies the Xiamen-Shantou-Manila route.

With the entry of Sinotrans, the MICT now services close to 40 international shipping lines.

Sinolines is the container transport specialized business unit of the Sinotrans Group, China's largest state-owned logistics service provider.

Sinolines started as a local company in Shanghai before it expanded throughout China and across the globe.

It now transports Chinese goods within China and the rest of the world.

Uni-Ship Inc. is Sinolines' Philippine agent.

ICTSI is the Philippines' largest port operator, which has several overseas port projects.

Clarissa S. Batino

Work on Naia 3 expected to be completed in March

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport Authority (MIAA) is set to complete unfinished portions of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 by end March.

But commercial operations may not commence at Naia 3 until the legal issues have been resolved, according to an MIAA official.

"The terminal is already 98 percent complete, and the two percent unfinished portion will be completed by March 31," said MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi.

The MIAA is completing civil works to correct what government consultants claimed were "more than 40 construction defects" of Naia 3. The government seized the facility in December 2004.

"But the opening of the terminal has not been decided," Cusi said. "We fear that there are legal issues which we may jeopardize if we conduct even just a dry run."

Fraport, the German group that owned the majority of Philippine International Air Terminals Co., filed a $425-million claim against the Philippines in September 2003 before a Washington arbitration court. It also sued the Philippine government for $900 million.

Piatco, the company that won the bid to build and operate Naia 3, but whose contract was nullified by the Supreme Court in 2002, is asking an arbitration court in Singapore to order the government to compensate the company $525 million for its investment.

The Department of Transportation and Communications had vowed to operate the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 within the first half of the year, from an original plan to open on June 21, 2005.

A transport official earlier said the pending arbitration cases should not affect the timetable.

"Pending the results of arbitration, the government has the option to open and operate the terminal even before the amount of just compensation is determined," said DOTC assistant secretary Robert Castañares. "We think public interest is paramount."

But now, government sources said a first semester opening this year was unlikely and would be lucky if Naia 3 could start operations by the second half of the year.

According to the business community, the opening of Naia 3 is crucial for the Arroyo administration which, at present, is trying to preserve its credibility.

Grayline license gets extended

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has extended the license of pre-need firm Grayline Plans Inc. to sell securities until December 2006.

The SEC said Grayline has fully complied with its requirements.

According to SEC, Grayline has an excess total deposit of P29,180.52 in its trust fund.

To date, the SEC has granted dealer's licenses to 29 pre-need firms this year.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Feb. 17, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35	35	35	130,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58	58.5	3,323,300
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	5,100
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	65.5	64	64.5	201,200
International Exch. Bank	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.75	56,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	32.5	33	939,800
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	11,900
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	39	39.5	39	39	183,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	34	34.5	34	34.5	13,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3210	3220	3210	3220	380
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	146	146	52,800
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2190	2190	2190	2190	80
Ivantage Corp.	0.74	0.78	0.73	0.78	7,270,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	45	45	561,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42	42.5	290,000
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	12.5	13	169,400
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	20	19.5	19.75	352,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	4,306,000
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.7	4.55	4.7	2,780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	40,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.5	21	20.5	21	39,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36.5	35.5	35.5	835,000
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	62	61.5	62	139,300
San Miguel Corp. B	82	83	82	82.5	132,400
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.75	18	2,728,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	740,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,620,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.32	1.38	8,271,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	270,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	220,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0775	0.0725	0.075	900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	700,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.21	0.24	0.21	0.22	930,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	7,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,000
Ayala Corp.	327.5	332.5	327.5	332.5	446,150
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	210,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	877,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	42,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.34	2.38	943,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	44,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.87	360,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	2,410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	452,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	2,414,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	150,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	98,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	180,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	95,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.245	8,890,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	47,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.52	270,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,300,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	220	218	218	55,390
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	6,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	2,140,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	13,902,700
Belle Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	3,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.64	4,307,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	101,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.225	7,580,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	2,370,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.46	7,550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	6,005,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	15,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.21	2,920,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.46	1.4	1.44	12,116,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	10,070,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.225	3,910,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	86,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.185	0.195	0.18	0.195	4,270,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	57,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	8	6,239,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,000,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	70,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	1,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	775	835	775	830	149,570
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	478,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1785	1790	1770	1770	137,460
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.165	5,790,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	5,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	8,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	110,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.029	122,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	276,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	60,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.78	1.8	5,627,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.95	3	2.95	3	21,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	13,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
Paxys Inc	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	234,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1	1	1	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	160,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6	5.9	6	258,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.22	4,110,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,150,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	49,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	69,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	45,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.68	6,072,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.78	2,788,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	68,800
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	21,530,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	84,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	52,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	790,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.53	490,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	4,000
PREFERRED					
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	1400	1400	1300	1300	150
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	800
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.5	396,800

CURRENCIES

February 17, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.840054	1.000000	51.6390
Japan	Yen	0.007147	0.008508	0.4393
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461610	1.739900	89.8467
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108252	0.128863	6.6544
Switzerland	Franc	0.641263	0.763359	39.4191
Canada	Dollar	0.726062	0.864304	44.6318
Singapore	Dollar	0.513858	0.611696	31.5874
Australia	Dollar	0.619783	0.737790	38.0987
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.229442	2.653928	137.0462
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224020	0.266674	13.7708
Brunei	Dollar	0.512290	0.609830	31.4910
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021386	0.025458	1.3146
UAE	Dirham	0.228723	0.272272	14.0599
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.190400	61.4711
Argentina	Peso	0.274079	0.326264	16.8479
Brazil	Real	0.396626	0.472144	24.3810
Denmark	Kroner	0.133943	0.159446	8.2336
India	Rupee	0.018984	0.022599	1.1670
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225821	0.268817	13.8814
Mexico	New Peso	0.080181	0.095447	4.9288
New Zealand	Dollar	0.561571	0.668494	34.5204
Norway	Kroner	0.123889	0.147477	7.6156
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014029	0.016700	0.8624
South Africa	Rand	0.138565	0.164948	8.5177
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.001026	0.0530
Sweden	Kroner	0.106613	0.126912	6.5536
Syria	Pound	0.016183	0.019264	0.9948
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025930	0.030867	1.5939
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0241

Re-elected officers aim for a stronger Pana

AFTER A BANNER YEAR FILLED with accomplishments, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) has re-elected its officers for 2006, renewing their mandate to further strengthen the advertising industry's premiere organization. The induction ceremony of the officers and board of directors was held recently at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel with Johnip Cua, president and general Manager of P&G Distributing (Phils) Inc as keynote speaker. Meanwhile, Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, Jr., president and COO of Alaska Milk Corp, led the induction of the officers and board of directors as they renewed their mandate and pledge for yet another hard-working year.

The newly re-elected Pana executive committee is composed of Ma. Belen Fernando, Alaska Corp vice president for marketing - president; Jones Campos, Globe Telecom head of public relations - vice president; lawyer Gafar Lutian, senior legal counsel, external relations group of Proctor & Gamble Phils - board secretary; Bobby Banaag, - first vice president - corporate communications department, Planters Development Bank - treasurer; Sandra Puno, vice president for media relations, Nestlé Philippines - auditor; Ma. Elena Dayrit, president of Gold's Gym - public relations officer.

On the other hand, the Pana board of directors include Cristina Esguerra, senior division manager, corporate marketing, Ayala Land Inc; Marie Angelyn Padilla, marketing services manager, Sara Lee Philippines Inc; Francisco Cada, group product manager, Zest-O-Corp; Jesus Garcia, assistant VP for advertising and promotions, Philippine Airlines; and Eduardo Sunico, country communication manager, Unilever Philippines. The occasion also formally introduced Pana's new executive director, Digna Santos, former senior business unit director of Kimberly Clark Philippines who assumed her Pana post in October 2005.

During the Induction program, re-elected Pana president, Belen "Blen" Fernando, disclosed the major thrusts plans for this Board's term. "Our focus will be on strengthening Pana as an organization through administration improvements, membership development and industry relations," she said, adding that the leadership shall provide Pana members with information that is relevant and vital to their business. In planning the Pana's directions for 2006, according to Fernando, the Pana leadership took the current business environment and its impact on the industry into consideration.

This is why the organization plans to computerize much of its existing transaction systems and processes while upgrading the skills of its Secretariat to serve the needs of members with speed and excellence. The membership development committee has also committed itself to identifying and training future leaders and qualified AdBoard committee members, as well as the recruitment and orientation of new member companies outside Metro Manila. This year, the communications committee of Pana will be coming up with more and better issues of AdEdge, the official publication of the organization.

Pana also aims to re-affirm itself as the industry's key opinion and information leader through its continuing education programs such as the monthly General Membership Meetings, sectoral meetings, the Pana Convention, the Speakers' Bureau and the 7th Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Student Competition which is organized by the Pana Foundation. This year, the competition aims to open itself to universities and colleges outside of Metro Manila.

Several of Pana's educational programs this year are in conjunction with its business partners in media and advertising suppliers, providing information on new and alternative ways to grow their products and services under the present environment.

In her speech, Fernando also recalled the achievements of the organization for the past year which include: the active participation in the AdBoard's Advertising Content Regulation Committee's (ACRC) system, facilitating discussions with various groups such as Congressional committees on the proposed bills on sex and violence in advertising, the MTRCB on the issue of self-regulation, and mediating negotiations between KBP, GMA 7 and the AdBoard. She also cited the organization's transparency, which allowed members to be duly informed of the state of the organization, as one of the reasons for the increase in attendance at Pana General Membership Meetings. The new board renewed its commitment to the membership that it will continue working to strengthen Pana as the advertising industry's premiere body guided by integrity, fairness and transparency.

MA. BELEN Fernando
President

JONES Campos
Vice president

GAFAR Lutian
Board secretary

BOBBY Banaag
Treasurer

SANDRA Puno
Auditor

MA. ELENA Dayrit
Public relations officer

CRISTINA Esguerra
Pana board of director

MARIE Angelyn Padilla
Pana board of director

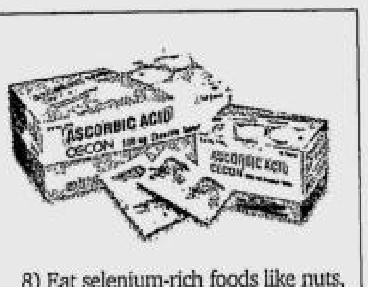
FRANCISCO Cada
Pana board of director

JESUS Garcia
Pana board of director

EDUARDO Sunico
Pana board of director

DIGNA Santos
Pana executive director

ProductFILES



Say no to meningo with a strong immune system

ALARMING NEWS ON THE QUICK spread of "killer diseases" like meningococcemia has caused collective dread and panic among many Filipinos.

Usually transmitted from person to person by respiratory droplets or by inhaling the air from the breathing, talking and coughing of the infected patient, meningococcemia is caused by a bacteria known as Neisseria Meningitides. The infection is contracted easily, like a common cold, and usually begins in the upper respiratory system. Once it enters the bloodstream, it can cause the body to go into shock and lead to kidney failure or death in a matter of hours.

A meningo outbreak typically occurs during a cold spell.

When the body's resistance is compromised due to stress, unhealthy diet and lack of exercise, the bacteria can easily penetrate and overwhelm the body.

The good news is the body has a natural shield specifically designed to ward off these harmful substances. The immune system is a complex defense network providing many layers of protection against foreign microbes before it can cause damage to the body.

Here are some pointers to help maintain the body's armor of protection.

1) Eat a variety of healthy foods and beverages. Plant-based foods and lean animal products (fish, poultry, and lean beef) and dairy selections contain phytonutrients that boost the immune system.

2) Get moderate daily physical cardiovascular activity. Overly strenuous exercise like training for a marathon has been shown to make the body more vulnerable to colds and flu.

3) Get enough sleep. Lack of sleep cause hormonal responses that can actually promote weight gain, increase stress hormones and decrease immune function.

4) Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Try to keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes because bacteria and viruses can easily multiply in warm, moist areas.

5) Keep up your natural defenses with yogurt and other probiotics. These contain live and active cultures to improve the balance of bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract that help fight infections.

6) Eat zinc-containing foods like oysters, beef, seafood, poultry, nuts, seeds and whole grains. Zinc may actually decrease the duration and severity of a cold when taken at the onset of a cold.

7) Drink tea. Certain components in tea help keep the immune system strong.

8) Eat selenium-rich foods like nuts, oysters and clams, whole grains, pork, beef and lamb. Selenium is an antioxidant and mineral that plays a supporting role in immune strength.

9) Get plenty of vitamin E, an immune-boosting antioxidant found in vegetable oils, seeds and nuts. Just remember: make sure you get adequate fat intake to be able to absorb the vitamin.

10) Enjoy citrus and other foods like peppers, broccoli, tomatoes and potatoes rich in vitamin C. This potent antioxidant can actually help decrease the duration and severity of a cold.

To fortify the body's natural built-in defense mechanism, take Ascorbic Acid Cecon. Ascorbic Acid Cecon is a chewable orange-flavored Vitamin C tablet that optimizes the natural immune response process at the cellular level. It alerts healthy cells about a present or potential danger and helps activate the response system to fight bacterial and viral infections more effectively.

When taken regularly, Ascorbic Acid helps fortify the body's armor of protection against harmful foreign substances before they can cause damage to health and well-being. Help ensure the immune system functions at full strength. Take Ascorbic Acid Cecon and help make sure you're safe against infections.

ISUZU QUEZON AVENUE NOW BIGGER AND BETTER

Isuzu Quezon Avenue - one of four Isuzu dealerships owned and operated by Industrial and Transport Equipment Inc (Inteco) - recently unveiled its new showroom and service facility to more effectively serve the needs of its customers not only in Quezon City but also in neighboring areas around it. Isuzu Quezon Avenue prides itself in the following key factors: competence, caliber and commitment. The dealership aims to keep this tradition by recently opening another building adjacent to its main office that will represent the new Isuzu image. Isuzu Philippines Corp (IPC) president Yoshifumi Komura (center) congratulates Isuzu Quezon Avenue chairman Antonio Jarina (2nd from left) during the opening of the dealership's new showroom and service facilities. Also present, from left: IPC executive vice president Kazuhiko Sho, IPC vice president for dealer network division Ken Takashima, and Isuzu Quezon Avenue president Raymund Jarina.

BITS Clips

Whirlpool absorbs RVAT

THE MANAGEMENT OF WHIRLPOOL HOME Appliances said that the RVAT on all Whirlpool appliances will not be passed on to customers as this tax will be shouldered by the company. Whirlpool sells white line appliances like refrigerators, microwave ovens, cooking ranges, split air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, and the like. All these appliances will be sold at regular prices.' Hence, the additional 2 percent tax of the RVAT will not be added to the prices of all Whirlpool appliances. Exatech Inc, the company that exclusively distributes and sells Whirlpool appliances will shoulder the cost of RVAT. With this special arrangement, buying Whirlpool appliances is almost equivalent to getting a 2 percent discount which is quite substantial especially for consumer items like appliances. Take advantage of this freeze in RVAT prices. Visit your nearest Whirlpool showroom or call 712-7073 for inquiries.

PSO-HNS celebrates 50th year

IN 1956, A SMALL GROUP OF U.S. trained Otolaryngologists, all Fellows in good standing of the erstwhile Philippine Ophthalmological and Otolaryngological Society, inspired by Dr. Tierry F. Garcia - agreed it was time to incorporate a separate and independent group to establish a competent ORL practice in the country. On February 17, 1956 the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology and Bronchoesophagology Inc was born. The group was re-baptized as the Philippine Society of Otolayngology-Head & Neck Surgery during the annual meeting held at the Penthouse of the Hyatt Regency on December 3, 1981. The society is busy preparing for the Hearing International Congress which will be held on Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 to coincide with the annual convention. The society holds the annual convention every December while the Midyear Convention is conducted every summer. The midyear convention this year will be held in Legazpi City on April 27 to 30. The society also conducts interhospital grand rounds, clinical practice guidelines fora, sportsfest, quiz contest, medical missions, research contests and other events. These activities aim to foster camaraderie, healthy competition, and to keep the general membership abreast with the latest developments in the specialty. The society will also launch "Kalusugang Ear Nose and Throat Program" a brainchild of Dr. Natividad Aguilar, which aims to promote pubic awareness of the common ENT problems. PSO-HNS Secretariat: Unit 2512, 25th floor, Medical Plaza Ortigas Condominium, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Website: http://www. psohns.org.ph; e-mail address: pso_hns@yahoo.com; tel. nos. 0063-2-6338344; telefax 0063-2-6332783.

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- Good attitude with strong analytical and interpersonal skills

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Test Preferably with experience and knowledge in Agilent 93K and Teradyne A5xx / Catalyst / Iflex Test System for Test Department. Knowledge in RF/Microwave test / product test engineering is an added advantage.

EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS (Assembly & Test)
- Recognized Bachelor or Master Degree in Electrical / Electronic / Mechanical / Mechatronic Engineering with minimum 2 years working experience in semiconductor industry
- Minimum 1 year hands-on experience in maintenance of Assembly / Automatic Testing Equipment

Assembly Proficient in PLC & Hydraulic System.
Test Experienced in programming, troubleshooting and maintenance of:
Test System – Teradyne A5xx / Catalyst / J750 / Iflex, Agilent 83k/84k/93k
Test handlers – Multitest, Delta Castle, Delta Edge, Synax, Rasco.

TEST HARDWARE ENGINEER
- Recognized Bachelor or Master Degree in Electrical / Electronic Engineering.
- Minimum 3 years hands-on experience working on Automated Test Equipments and electronics board repair environment.
- Has strong RF knowledge and understanding of electronic circuits.

TECHNICIAN Preventive Maintenance & Line Sustaining
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Test Knowledge in Test System on Teradyne A5xx / Catalyst / J750 / Iflex, Agilent 83K / 84K / 93K and Test Handlers for Multitest, Delta Castle, Delta Edge, Synax, Rasco.
Post Test Knowledge in TNR ICOS 9450, RVSI, STI AT168, STI Hexa Sprint and VisDynamics G6

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements are invited to send your detail resumé with photo attach to **resotech@streamyx.com / resotech@the.net.my** before 22nd February 2006.

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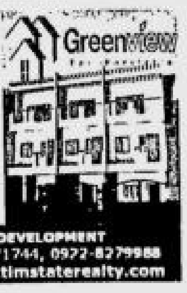

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C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
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February 25, 2006
at 9:00 AM.
Including all items pawned up to September 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

ANNOUNCEMENT

GARAGE SALE
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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Resins Incorporated stock certificate no. NV 1003 for 1,355 shares issued to Carlos S. Rufino was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - Feb. 04, 11 & 18, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Our Dearest and Beloved

Impresion Maniñgat de Guzman

wife of the late **Cecilio A. de Guzman, Sr.**

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 16, 2006 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children and their spouses **Ed & Diane, Jun & Mher, Marissa & Don Mant, Teddy & Neneng (†), Nora, & Danny,** bereaved grandchildren & their spouses **Tinee & Chiqui, Mickee & Ria, Aina & Raymund, Christi Anne, Erica, Bernice & Criss, Edwina & Jonathan, Abie, Tovi, Reia, & Gus, Paolo & Cristine,** and great grandchildren request the relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Jose Church, East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, 19 February 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Administration Building, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

OBITUARIES

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Mr. DOMINADOR C. FALGUERA

of Bayumbong, Nueva Vizcaya

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 15, 2006 at the age of 70.

"Your memory will be etched forever in our hearts. We love you Daddy"

His loving wife **Norma**; children **Myrielle, Norris, Joyce, Christine, Red, Patrick,** ***SJ*** and **Gerald**, and grandchild **Binky**

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Scholastica's Main Convent, Wagner Road, Baguio City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at Heaven's Gate, Loakan, Baguio City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Firms, gov't out to make RP animation leader

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL ANIMATION FIRMS HAVE partnered with government agencies in an attempt to make the Philippines the animation capital of the world.

Joy Bacon, executive director of the Animation Council of the Philippines Inc., said the group was working with the Department of Trade and Industry's regional offices and educational institutions to entice young people to take up a career in animation.

Founded in 2000 to promote the local animation industry, ACPI groups 22 companies that specialize in 2D and 3D animation.

"There is enough business for everybody and we aim at training and producing some 25,000 new animators over a four-year period through 2010," she said.

Bacon said the lack of work has never been a problem for local animation studios since the 1980s when the country supplied globally 90 percent of outsourced animation work.

But the sector's strong performance spawned rival companies in other countries, which lured Filipino talent with better pay.

"Boosting the industry's workforce with fresh animators to enable the studios to meet global demand is the most formidable challenge the industry faces," Bacon added.

Some of the famous cartoons and animations made by Filipinos for foreign clients are Scooby Doo, Tom and Jerry, Addams Family, The Mask, The Jetsons, Dragon Ball Z and Captain Planet.

Local animation firms have been getting assignments from global animation studios such as Walt Disney Pictures, Hanna Barbera, Dreamworks and Cartoon Network.

In its drive to institutionalize animation education and the promise of lucrative careers in the industry, Bacon said ACPI has launched a series of programs to promote animation courses in more schools.

Aside from the studios that offer short courses, there are so far only three major schools offering animation courses-Ateneo de Naga, College of St. Benilde and Mapua IT Center.

"More than having the number of such schools increase, we are was also taking steps to ensure that graduates of animation courses are ready to meet industry needs," she said.

ACPI has tied up with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to provide industry-relevant regulatory standards for academic requirements associated with animation courses of two-years or less.

IT companies move to provinces

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-enabled service firms are moving outside Metro Manila as the government steps up a campaign to promote regional urban centers as alternative locations for business process outsourcing operations.

In a press briefing, trade officials and local government executives said many cities and provinces were finding their niche as IT hubs and were beginning to get noticed by investors.

Trade Undersecretary Carissa Cruz, who is in charge of DTI's regional operations group, said the promotional efforts were aimed at developing a cyber service corridor similar to Malaysia's Multimedia Corridor.

"The regions have been showing striking advancement in business infrastructure and the availability of human resource and real estate make (firm their potential as Ites locations)," she said.

The regional IT hubs were showcased at the close of the e-Services Philippines 2006 Outsourcing Conference and Exhibition held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The cities and provinces featured include Zamboanga, General Santos, Leyte, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Bohol, Cebu, Naga, Bataan, Bulacan, Pangasinan, Camarines Sur, Iloilo and Davao.

Other areas being promoted were Pampanga, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and Dumaguete City.

In Davao, DTI regional director Lou Pasawa said Japanese firms have put up home improvement and English-language learning operations in the city by way of Ites.

"Also, we have 400 call center seats online and PeopleSupport has put up a training center in Davao," Pasawa said.

In Dumaguete, SPI Technologies and TeleTech have put up shop in what industry officials consider a very good location in terms of talent pool and infrastructure.

In Cebu, there are now 12 call centers, including those of Convergys and eTelecare.

In Bacolod, City Councilor Jocelle Batapa-Sigue said four major call center firms were expected to put up operation there within the year.

In General Santos, DTI Assistant Regional Director Doris Delima said home-grown companies engaged in medical transciption were thriving. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Kepco, IJ Group buy 48% of Salcon

By Abigail L. Ho

KEPCO PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS Inc. (Kephi) and the IJ Group have completed the purchase of 716.397 million shares of listed Salcon Power Corp. for P1.3 billion or P1.80 a share.

The purchase, which was coursed though the Philippine Stock Exchange, effectively gave Kephi and the IJ Group 47.92 percent of Salcon Power's outstanding capital stock.

In a disclosure to the PSE yesterday, Salcon Power said the block sale was implemented in accordance with the share purchase agreement (SPA) signed Dec. 14, 2005.

The agreement listed Kepco Philippines Corp. (Kephilco) and the IJ Group as buyers, and Salcon Holdings Philippines Inc. and ATC Engineering Sdn Bhd, as sellers.

Under the SPA, Kephilco assigned its obligation to buy 40 percent, or 597.998 million shares, of Salcon Power's outstanding capital stock to Kephi.

The IJ Group, on the other hand, bought 56.996 million Salcon Power shares from ATC and 61.402 million shares from various minority shareholders of the power firm that responded to the tender offer.

In total, this represented 7.92 percent of Salcon Power's outstanding capital stock.

Dennis Villareal, who controls the IJ Group, owned around 45.6 percent of Salcon Power's outstanding capital stock prior to the block sale.

The block sale was completed last Wednesday, six days before the Feb. 21 deadline for the transaction to be completed or the SPA would "terminate and cease to be of force and effect."

Kephilco, the country's second largest independent power producer, currently operates the 650-megawatt (MW) Malaya Power complex in Rizal province.

Salcon Power, on the other hand, operates, maintains, and manages the 203-MW Naga Power Plant Complex in Cebu.

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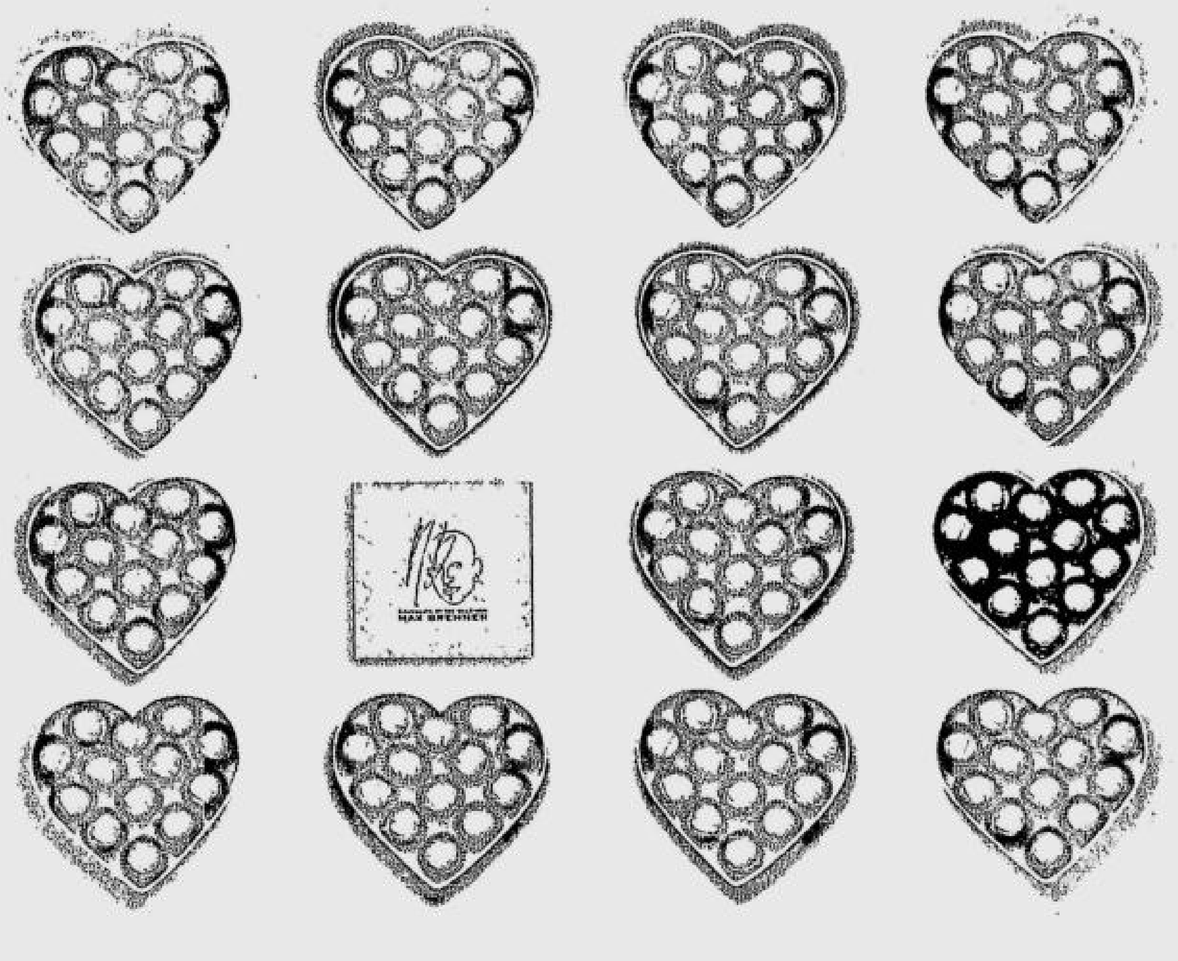

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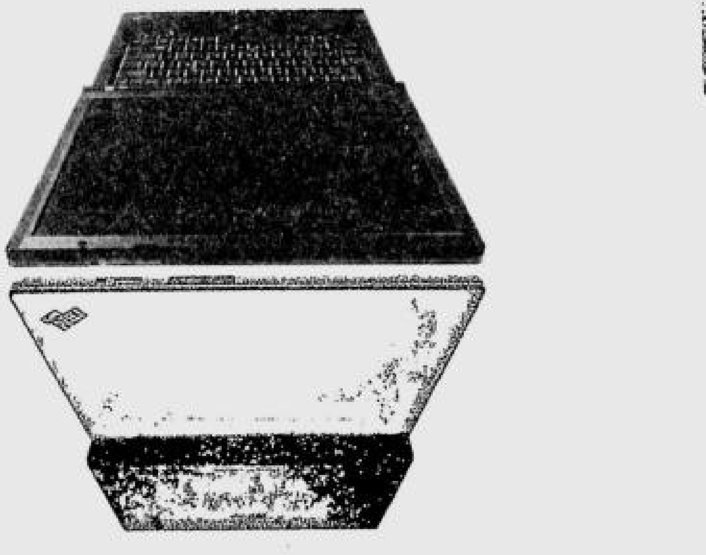

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

NIGHTLIFE at the Bonifacio Global City's the Fort

A PERSPECTIVE of the St. Luke's Hospital

BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

Newest arena for developers is Bonifacio Global City

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, the selling price of commercial land of Bonifacio Global City has gone up from just P50,000 per square meter in 2004 to P132,000 today.

Compare this to prime lands in the Makati CBD, estimated to have posted a 15 percent year-on-year increase in 2005, to an average of P216,632 per sq m, as reported in the property indicator of Colliers International Philippines in January 2006.

In two years, new concepts in development have emerged in Bonifacio Global City, and so have large-scale residential developments with quality and design comparable to the condos in Makati CBD and the Rockwell.

A total of 83 completed, ongoing and about-to-be-constructed buildings can now be found in Bonifacio Global City.

Jun V. Bisnar, head for commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., said that based on industry estimates last year, 40 percent of the total new condominium supply projects in Metro Manila is being developed in the Bonifacio Global City. FBDC is the principal developer of Bonifacio Global City.

Bisnar added that the FBDC is spending more than P2 billion for the redevelopment of the Bonifacio Global City's master plan of the City Center and other projects.

Battleground for developers

A significant update in the real estate scenario is Bonifacio Global City becoming the burgeoning battleground for developers such as Robinsons, Century Properties, G&W, Philtown Properties (an RFM Subsidiary), Megaworld Corp. and Ayala Land Inc. (ALI).

Insofar as ALI is concerned, its projects have no equal in terms of magnitude.

ALI developments include Market! Market!, a 10-hectare retail complex; Serendra, the biggest residential complex at 12 hectares boasting of 50 percent open space; and ALI's office building projects with the FBDC.

Of the 240 hectares comprising Bonifacio Global City, 137 hectares are owned and developed by FBDC. FBDC is 55 percent controlled by Bonifacio Land Corp. BLC is majority owned by Ayala Land Inc. and Evergreen Holdings Inc.

Ninety-three hectares belong to the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), while the remaining 10 hectares are controlled by Metrobank.

Showdown

But for Megaworld, it's in the thick of a showdown with ALI.

Megaworld's projects include McKinley Hill, a 50-hectare master-planned community located in Fort Bonifacio but is not within the main Bonifacio Global City development.

ERA Philippines country president and CEO Eric Soriano said the heavyweight developers are ALI and Megaworld as their strategic focus is on building mixed-use developments much like clustered city centers in one burgeoning CBD.

Noli Hernandez, Megaworld vice president for marketing, stressed that McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio which covers 50 hectares is a self-contained master-planned community with a garden setting.

These include single-detached luxury homes, townhouses, four-story residential garden villas, high-rise condominiums, schools and universities, campus-type office buildings, shopping centers, a public museum and library, a community center and sports club.

Hernandez said Megaworld's five-hectare Forbes Town Center development in Global City sits on "very prime property" that covers almost half a kilometer of golf course views.

The Forbes Town Road will house more than a hundred high-end shops, restaurants and coffee shops lining the road.

Existing buildings

Existing residential buildings at the Bonifacio Global City include Bonifacio Ridge, One McKinley Place, Regent Parkway, Penhurst Parkplace, Pacific Plaza, and Essensa.

The ongoing residential projects include Kensington Place, Fairways Tower, South of Market, Forbestown, Fifth Avenue Place, and Serendra.

Existing office buildings are Bonifacio Technology Center, Net One, Net Square, and the Fort 26th St.

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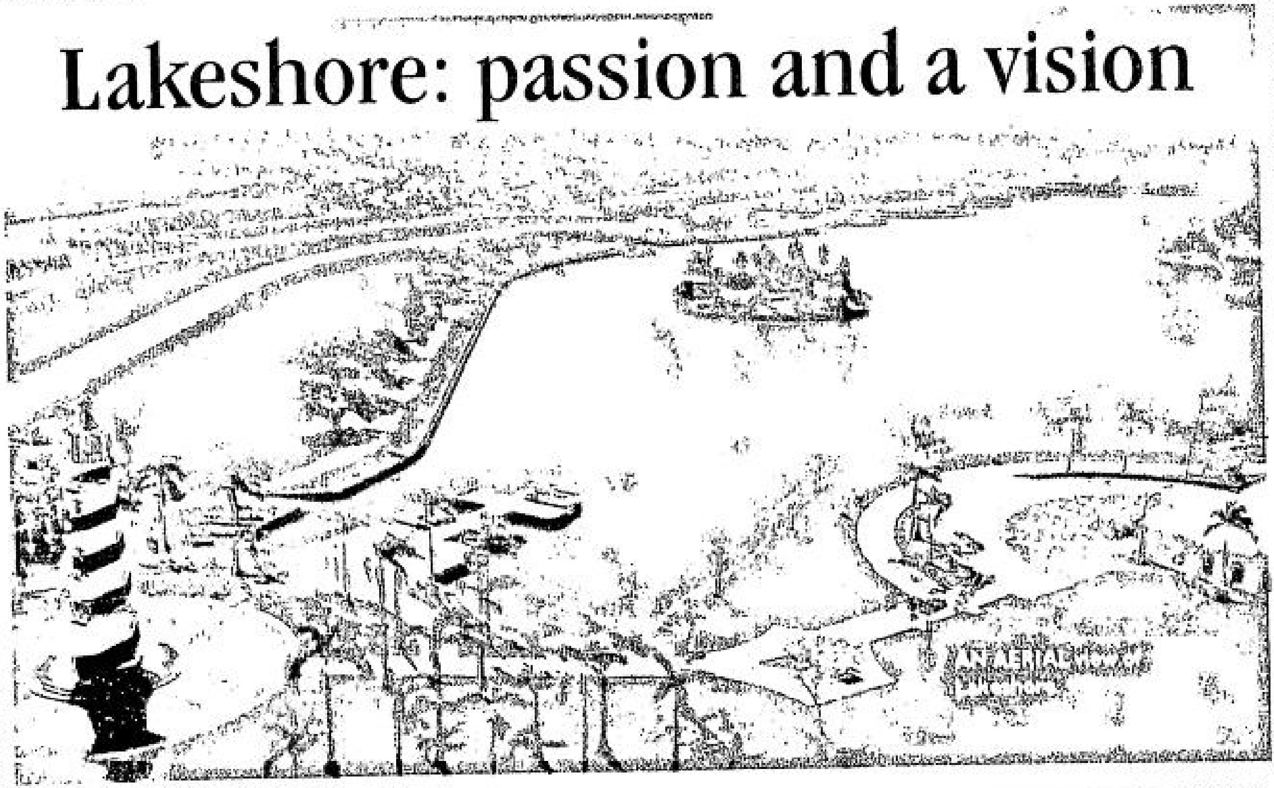


ARCHITECT and developer Nestor Mangio

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

WATER GIVES LIFE. AMID THE MOST arid desert sands, a trickle of water flows to sustain its flora and fauna. Even when searching for signs of life in other planets, scientists seek out water as proof of life. It's as simple as that. If this is so, then in the midst of the devastation that was lahar in Pampanga, there has risen further proof of life, a beautiful crystal clear lake. And around this lake, there is growing a community development called Lakeshore.

Speaking with Brian Mangio, who together with his father, architect Nestor Mangio, are the principals of the Lakeshore development in Pampanga, we found out how they were inspired to use the lake as the centerpiece of their project. He admits that it all started with their passion for water and the activities they love such as fishing and boating. They knew there were many others who felt the same and wanted to bring their passion right to their doorstep. Now this idea is a reality and it has transformed the area into an oasis.

Water feature

The area was originally a sugarcane plantation and was never swampy. It was not really affected by the lahar flows of Mt. Pinatubo since it lies several meters above the city of San Fernando. Seasoned developers would have raised their eyebrows if any planner had recommended that 12 hectares of saleable real estate be converted to a water feature. But with architect Mangio, passion and vision came first. Certain of his dream, he decided to develop it on his own.

THE LIGHTHOUSE by sunset features the most prominent structure of Lakeshore.

Today, prime lots are nestled along the lake shore while commercial lots are located on another side. A lighthouse serves as a quaint landmark with an island greenbelt that is ideal for parties and functions. The proponents very proudly claim that the project was completely designed by Filipinos with no foreign consultants involved, a testament to Filipino creativity and skill.

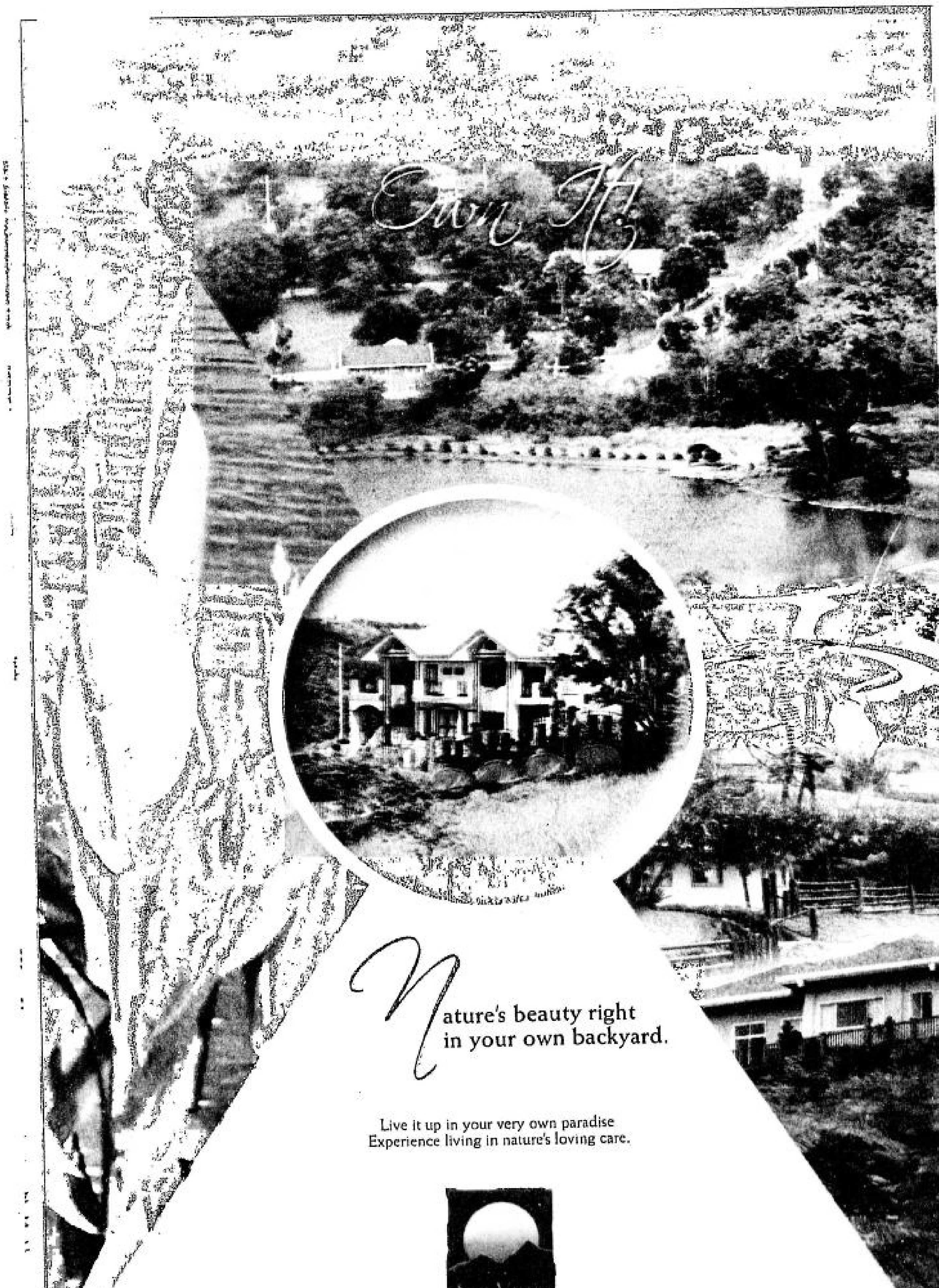
As usual with water features, maintenance is a pervading concern. A lot of developers and their property managers think of it as a huge burden in care and cost. On the contrary, the Mangios say that it is easier to maintain the lake and its biome than it is to tend the landscaped areas. After all, Mother Nature is the best groundskeeper of all.

Homes closer to nature

With a bold move such as this, the Mangios have begun to rewrite development formulas in the country. Prime land does not solely mean concrete and towers. They have shown that it is very possible to create and much easier to preserve more ecologically balanced communities. It is no longer improbable to carve out and sustain comfortable communities within natural terrain. It is even rewarding to bring our homes closer to nature.

Pampanga suffered tremendously when Pinatubo erupted and, to some extent, at the dismantling of the US bases. But the Mangios and their "cabalens" never lost focus. Their hopes and aspirations remained strong. They not only overcame the challenges but turned their area into a metropolitan hub, soon comparable to Alabang and Sta. Rosa.

This is just a story of a man and his vision and how the pursuit of his passion caused a refreshing ripple in the staid field of real estate development. Even before hard work and perseverance, it is passion combined with vision that will propel a project to succeed. In Lakeshore, all the ingredients are in place. Even Mother Nature has been invoked. Only wonderful things can come of these.



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Newest arena . . .

From page B2-1

The Fort Square has upscale fine-dining restaurants while The Car Plaza has Mercedes-Benz/CATS' showroom, Ford, Mancor service center and other autoshops. There are other commercial buildings and six upscale and international schools.

The St. Lukes Medical Center, which started construction last year, will house 600 beds and 366 doctors' offices.

BGC lies on the Guadalupe Plateau that has a competent and solid bedrock ideal for urban development and building construction.

Elevated in comparison to other areas in Metro Manila, its highest point is at 40 meters above sea level.

Lessons learned from CBDs

Bisnar said lessons in traffic management, pedestrians, green spaces and clean air learned from years of the Makati CBD experience are now being applied in BGC.

The mushrooming developments in BGC will complement the traditional CBDs that are experiencing decreasing office vacancy rates, from double digits a few years back down to just seven percent at present.

The year 2006 sees businesses bracing for an increase in rental rates of 15 to 20 percent because of the increased demand for office space.

This trend would most likely be feeding the frenzy at BGC as well.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID WAREHOUSING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU

LEASE OF THE AGGREGATE AREA BALANCE OF 4,065.15 SQ. METERS FOR GRAINS WAREHOUSE STORAGE SPACE

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY through its *Corporate Budget for 2006*, intends to apply the sum of PESOS: THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY THREE (Ps. 3,333,423.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the lease of the aggregate area balance of 4,065.15 sq. meters for grains warehouse storage space for NFA Cebu City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential bidders to apply first for the accreditation of the warehouse(s) intended to be leased as grains warehouse storage space for NFA Cebu City prior to the issuance of Bidding Documents.

Interested Bidders shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to the BAC Secretariat together with the following warehouse accreditation requirements: a) Proof of Warehouse Ownership, b) Floor Plan of Warehouse and c) Location Map/Sketch Plan.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Banilad, Cebu City.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will issue the complete set of Bidding Documents only to prospective bidders who had been issued a Notice of Warehouse Accreditation by BAC and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (Ps. 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138).

Following is the schedule of bidding activities.

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE (Date/Time)
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	Feb 11, 2006 - Feb 19, 2006
2. Issuance of Notice of Accreditation/Non-Accreditation and Issuance of Bidding Documents	Feb 11, 2006 - Feb 20, 2006
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	Feb 21, 2006 @ 10:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	March 06, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by a reputable Commercial Bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their respective representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Availability of the leased warehouse is required upon receipt of Notice to Occupy until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of withdrawal of stocks by NFA whichever is applicable.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI - Feb 11 & 18, 2006)

The Residences at Greenbelt inspire romance and artistry

THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT FOLLOWS the Ayala Land Premier tradition of upholding exemplary living standards for the cosmopolitan dweller.

The high-rise condominium is located right in the world-renowned Greenbelt Mall, the country's only lifestyle center and the only residential development linked to the Makati Central Business District. Its very contemporary design and amenities offer the finest in condominium living, as countless work, play and relaxation options are unceasingly encouraged.

With its second tower, San Lorenzo, The Residences at Greenbelt also gives its unit owners the privilege of viewing the metropolis at a most unique vantage point. The energetic Makati skyline and the captivating greenery of the San Lorenzo Village are welcome and exciting sights to behold on a daily basis.

Special open house

On March 5, The Residences at Greenbelt will be able to give guests a luxurious experience of the project through a special open house event titled "Romantic Dreamstyles at The Residences at Greenbelt" from 9 a.m. onward. Guests will be treated to an exhibit of romantic tablescapes right inside the project's marketing showroom, of which they can very well replicate and take inspiration from for their future homes.

Different model units of the San Lorenzo Tower will have different romantic themes in a variety of intimate and artistic table settings created by exclusive Greenbelt merchants. These tablescapes are set to recapture those priceless moods, which seek to provide an exclusive viewing experience that only Ayala Land Premier can provide.

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For details about the event and the project, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. The showroom is located at the 3rd level, Greenbelt 3.

Managing rental properties

TO HELP OWNERS of rental properties, Urban Institute will conduct a seminar on Management of Rental Properties on March 1, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Other seminars, which can be attended separately on the same time and venue, are Feb. 20—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Feb. 22—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; Feb. 27—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; March 6—How-tos of Real Property Valuation; and March 8—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties.

For other details, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174 or e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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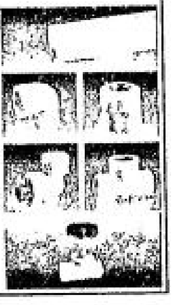

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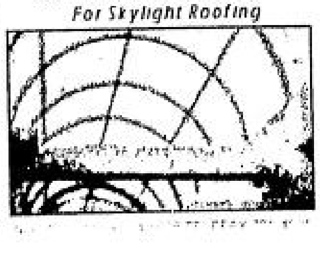

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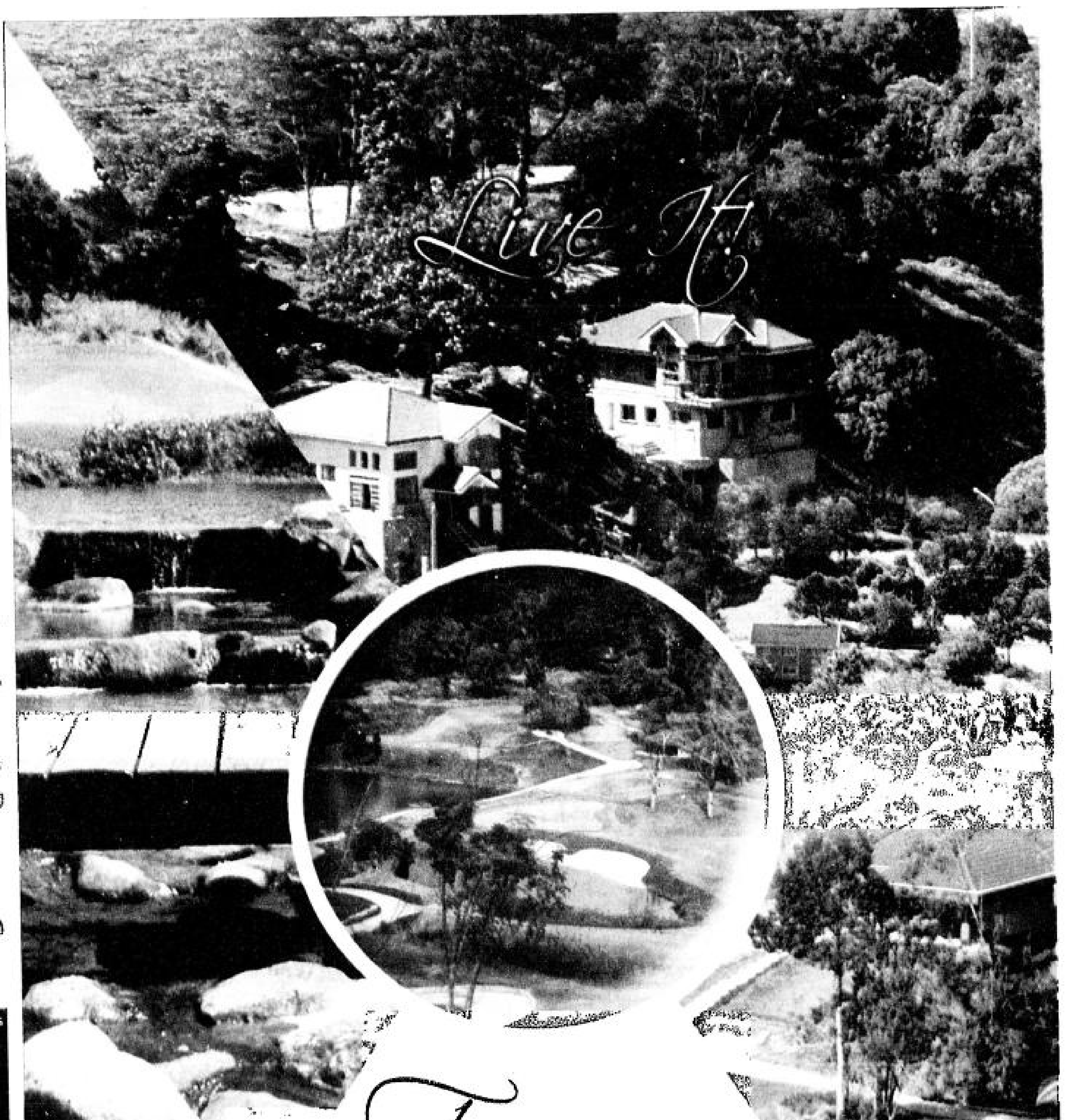

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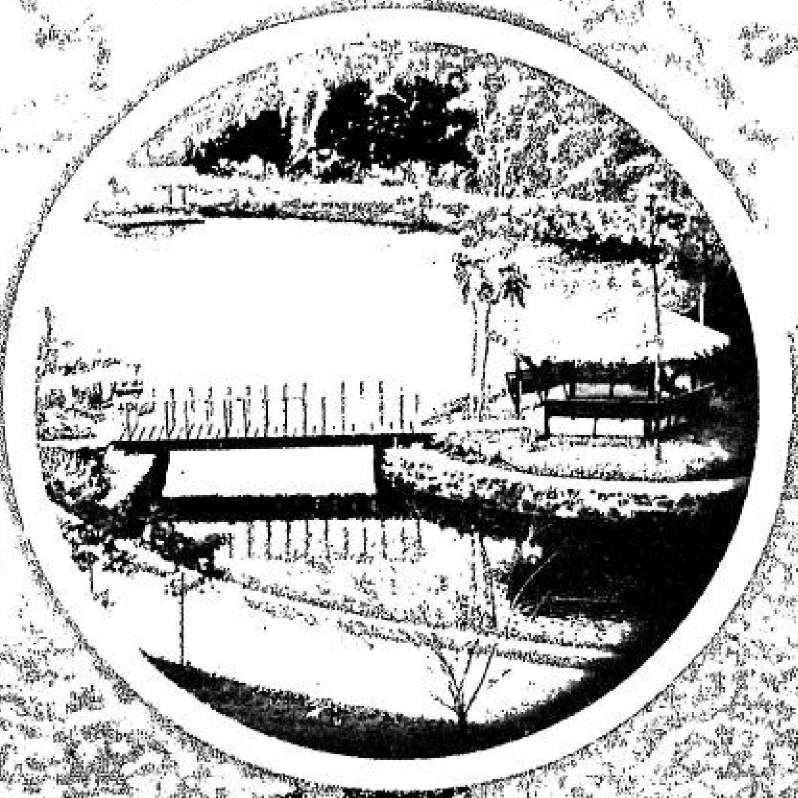

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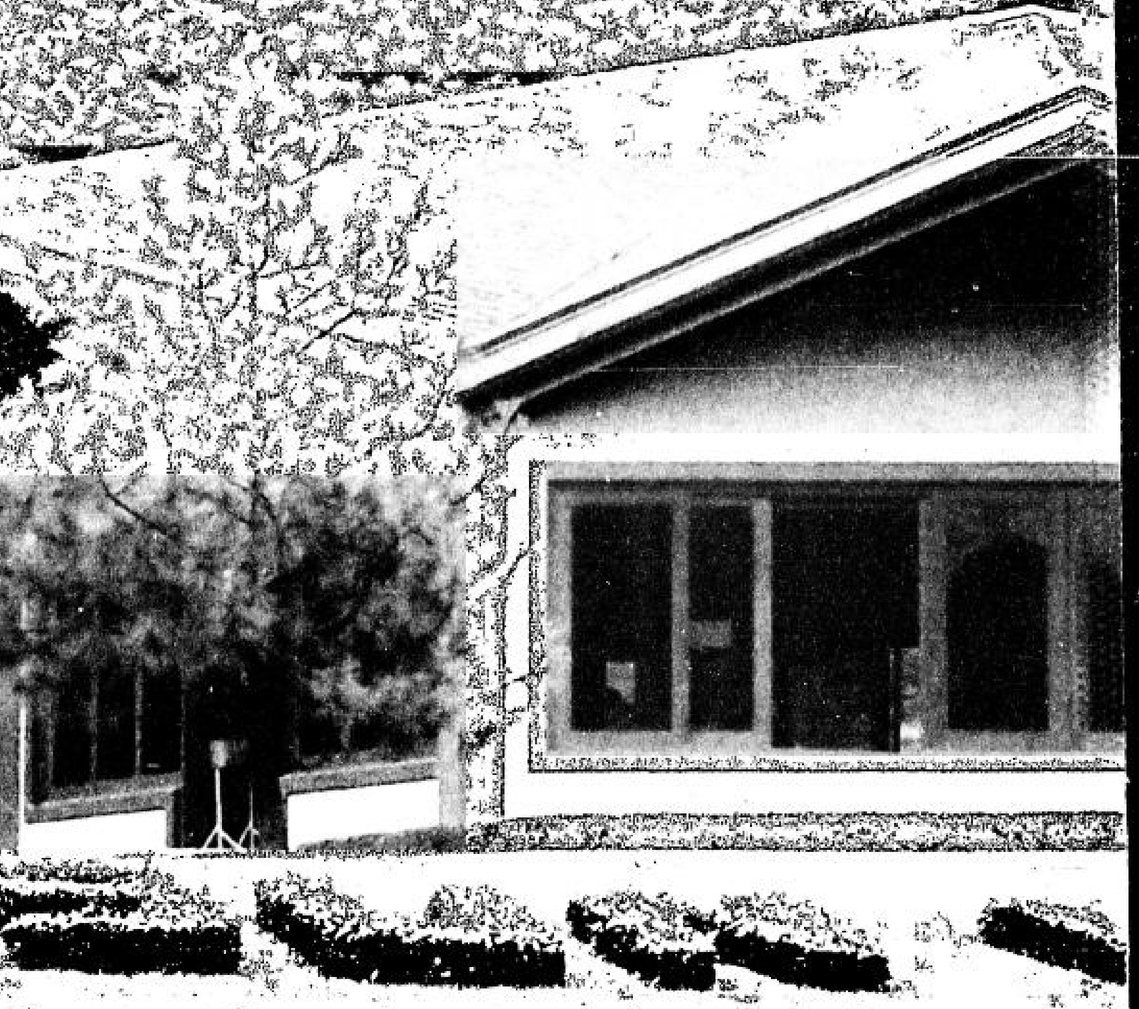

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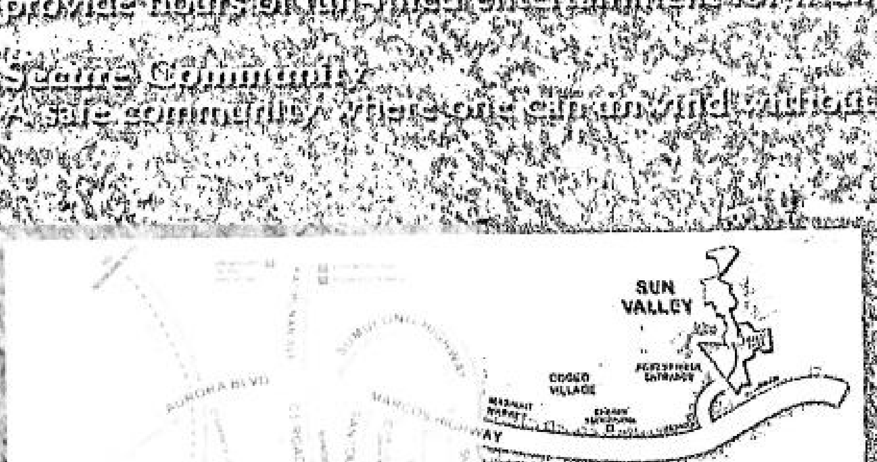
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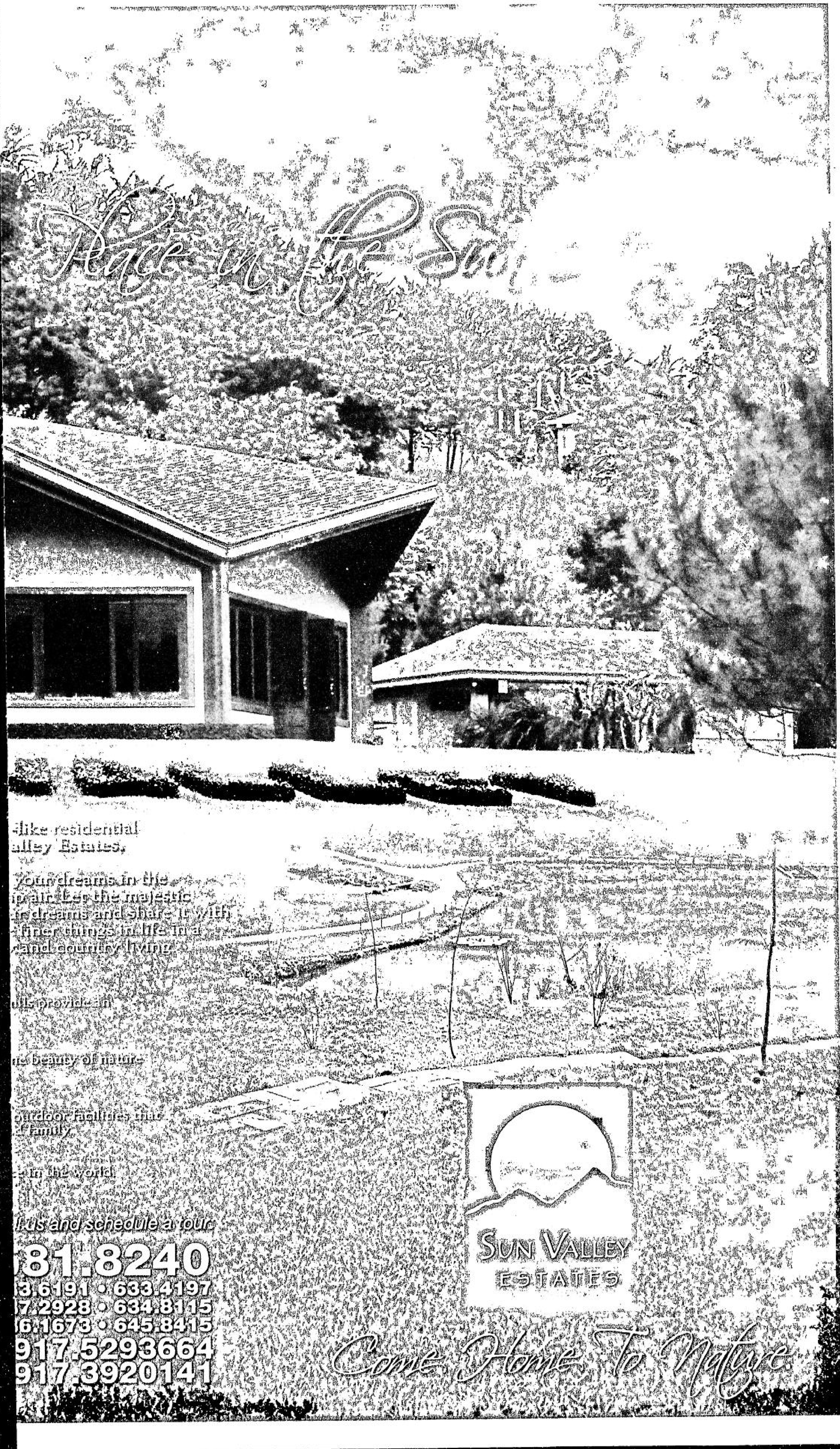
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Georgia Club: old world-charm, world-class development

GEORGIA Club evokes the grace and charm of the laid-back lifestyle enjoyed by the privileged aristocracy of the American South.

NEWLY LAUNCHED Georgia Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is a gated enclave inspired by the privileged lifestyle of the aristocracy in the American South. The high-end community will showcase old-world charm with world-class development, characterizing the partnership to develop Georgia Club between MesaLand, pioneers of master-planned development in Sta. Rosa, and property maverick Brittany Corp.

Appropriately, the launch evoked the magic of a festive event in Georgia, with costumed gentlemen and ladies in peacock skirts with parasols, a gazebo and a carriage with flowers, signature cuisine including Southern fried chicken, barbecue and corn-on-the-cob and a profusion of colorful blooms.

Presiding at the launch of Georgia Club, no less, were Mesa Land President Bebo Quiros and EVP Coy Quiros, Laguna Congresswoman Uliran Joaquin, Sta. Rosa Vice Mayor Arlene Arcillas, and Brittany President Jing Serrano and VP engineer Rodel Racadio.

Named after the southern state of Georgia in the United States, Georgia Club is being built on 30 hectares initially, roughly rectangular in shape, in a generally northeast to southwest orientation on the left of the Sta. Rosa highway to Tagaytay from the South Luzon Expressway. The project is situated in a highly strategic location, adjacent to other prime developments in the area, namely Hacienda Sta. Elena, Brittany's Bellereve, Fontamara, Promenade and La Residencia.

AT GEORGIA Club's launch, an ornate gazebo is a shady nook, cooled by breezes, for a couple dressed in old American South finery.

Preserving a way of life

Georgia Club, the naturally beautiful land around it featuring tall trees and sprawling plains, is designed to encourage and preserve a way of life that recognizes family and friendship as integral to life's enjoyment. Residences are to be found amid natural beauty, with greenery and gardens balancing structured civilization with rusticity.

A key design feature to be found in a Georgia Club residence is the spacious porch, where the time-honored tradition of the neighborly visit and chat will be honored, kept alive and well. The porch will also be ideal for weekend family breakfasts, curling up quietly with a favorite book, or simply whiling away lazy afternoons.

Architectural features

True to its thematic inspiration, Georgia Club residences will boast symmetrical façades and gabled roofs, evoking the charm of the genteel American South. Architectural features will include evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceilings.

Shaded verandahs and tall windows will invite cooling, gentle breezes. Façades will display distinctive splashes of color, with brightly colored shutters and doors, and the latter welcoming visitors with brass knockers.

Georgia Club's portfolio of home designs will emphasize the gracious American Southern architectural style. Single-detached models are named to evoke the American South. Lot packages at Georgia Club start at P2.55 million for 242 sq m up to P2.74 million for 250 sq m. Residence and lot packages start at P6.5 million up to P23.4 million.

Only a 25-minute drive from Alabang via the newly opened Asia Brewery Greenfield Exit, the location of Georgia Club enables residents to avoid the traffic from industrialized areas of Laguna. An alternative route via the South Luzon Expressway and Sta. Rosa interchange likewise gives access to the Alabang business district.

High-quality education

Children are assured of high-quality education with schools located within the area such as De La Salle, St. Scholastica, Don Bosco and the Ateneo Graduate School. They can acquire a pre-school and primary education at the Acacia School, a primary and secondary education at Woodrose, or a university degree at the 45-hectare soon to rise Sta. Rosa campus of the University of Sto. Tomas.

The new UST campus will boast a scenic view of Mt. Makiling, with a refreshing environment more conducive to learning, and a teaching hospital. Or students can attend schools such as Zobel, San Beda and Southridge in Alabang.

Georgia Club also allows residents the enjoyment of leisurely activities at neighboring premier golf courses and country clubs (such as the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club, and The Country Club just a stone's throw away), relaxation in nearby Tagaytay, or weekend breaks on the beaches of Batangas.

For property previews of Georgia Club, call 842-1251 and 850-2868, or visit www. brittany-georgiaclub.com.ph.

THE MANORS AT CELEBRITY PLACE

A fresh take on in-city living

DMCI HOMES TAKES THE INNOVATIVE concept of the resort-type residential community to yet another dimension with The Manors at Celebrity Place.

About to take off from the drawing board middle of the year, the master plan of The Manor at Celebrity Place in Balara, Quezon City, positions a cluster of six four-story condominium buildings on the same compound nestling an already existing sports club, the exclusive and historical Celebrity Sports Club. Sharing space in what will be the latest of DMCI Homes' multiuse property development projects are townhouses, single-detached houses and lots from another property developer.

Unlike its completed and now operational housing developments featuring brand-new themed clubhouses as their crown jewels, DMCI Homes will take advantage of the resort-like amenities of an already existing sports club that is rich in history. Future homeowners at The Manors will be given membership privilege to the Celebrity Sports Club.

Sports aficionados remember Celebrity Sports Club, one of the nation's premier sports clubs, as the scene of the Filipino bowlers' memorable finishes and title triumphs in both the world and Asian bowling championships.

Joint venture

The Manors at Celebrity Place, according to DMCI, will be a joint venture with another DMCI company, Riviera Land. It is DMCI Homes which will take care of The Manors' horizontal and vertical development as well as the marketing of the project.

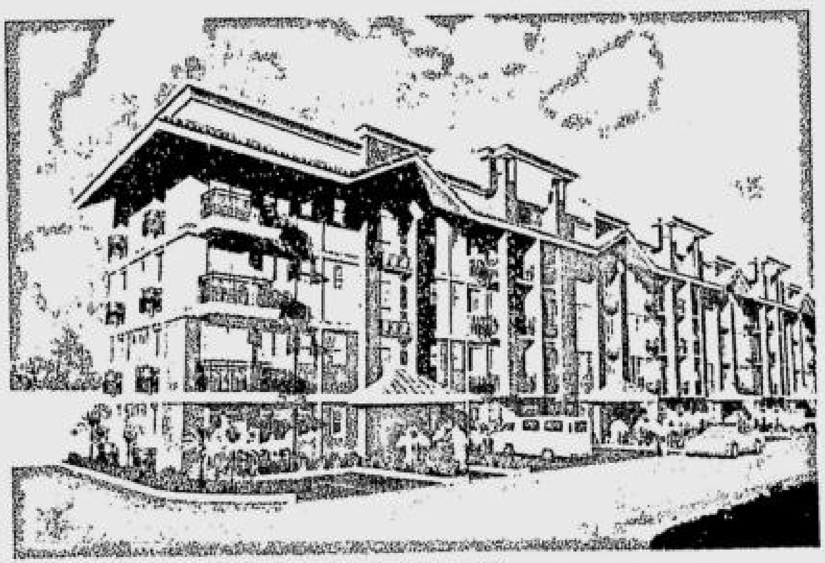
The Manors will take its building and floor-plan blueprint after DMCI Homes' mid-rise, medium-density condominiums, currently the company's most popular type of in-city residences.

The six condo structures making up the Manors will have elevator access. Two of these residential buildings will house a smaller number of units but laid out across bigger living spaces. A condo unit's floor area varies. To be made available to fit individual tastes and needs are two-bedroom inner units of 79 square meters each and three-bedroom end units of about 157 sq m.

Equal ratio

Underscoring the meticulous planning that's the hallmark of every one of DMCI Homes' community developments, the creative genius and topnotch designers behind the conceptualization of The Manors have considered an equal ratio between residential units and parking areas in the packaging of the upcoming residential community.

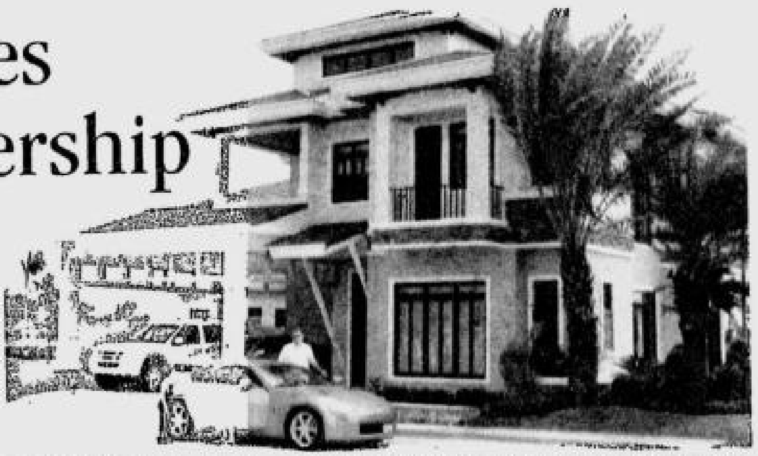
Although parking slots will be sold separately, every residential owner at The Manors will get priority over purchase of at least one parking space. Each residential building will have covered bridge ways for convenient access to parking areas.


ARTIST'S rendition of Celebrity Place's York Building

As is also the trademark of DMCI Homes, the entire development is designed to keep a bigger open area as opposed to saleable spaces. The Manors at Celebrity Place commits itself to securing a total of 4,000 sq m of open spaces for landscaped gardens, parks and playgrounds, as against the total building footprint of 3,000 sq m.

DMCI Homes' timetable has set the mobilization of the horizontal development of The Manors sometime in June or July.

South Forbes golf membership not for sale


RESIDENTS of South Forbes Bali Mansions will enjoy resort-inspired living on a daily basis.

CONTRARY TO PERSISTENT INquiries of golfers who are interested to acquire golf shares, membership to the South Forbes Golf Club is absolutely not for sale.

"Membership to the world-class, 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club is not for sale. We're giving it away absolutely for free, at no activation fee either, for every lot and condominium unit owner at South Forbes Golf City," said Jeffrey Ng, Cathay Land president.

Free golf membership

Despite persistent inquiries of Filipinos and foreigners in acquiring South Forbes golf shares, Ng is determined to stay put with the free golf membership proposition.

"For just an additional amount to a P1 million share in other golf clubs, for example, investors can get more value by getting a lot or condo unit at South Forbes. The free golf membership makes it all the more an appealing and wise investment. The risk of the ups and downs of the golf share price is erased. Plus, of course, property values have no way to go but up," he shared.

World-class design

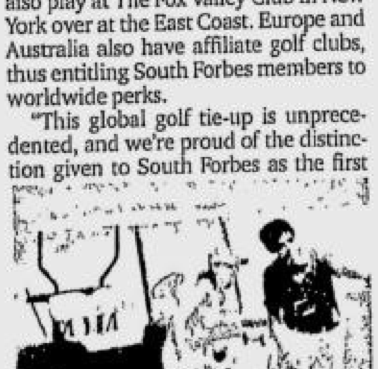
He was nevertheless happy with the demand of golfers for a price to be set for the golf membership. "We have caught the attention of the investors' market, even active golfers. They anticipate South Forbes Golf Club to have a world-class design due to our design agreement with Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG). Moreover, they want to be able to play in golf courses worldwide, with preferred access and at a discount, and they can only do that with their free South Forbes golf membership."

Ng is referring to the partnership of South Forbes with the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub. The club offers members preferential access to and discounts in 42 golf courses across four continents.

Global golf tie-up

Members can play at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club in the tropical paradise of Bali. Jetsetters can also invite relatives and friends to a round of golf or enjoy some leisure time at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco over at the West Coast. They can also play at The Fox Valley Club in New York over at the East Coast. Europe and Australia also have affiliate golf clubs, thus entitling South Forbes members to worldwide perks.

"This global golf tie-up is unprecedented, and we're proud of the distinction given to South Forbes as the first and only affiliate of IMG SportsClub here in the Philippines. This will ultimately be enjoyed by our countrymen and foreigners who love to travel regularly and overseas-based Filipinos as well," Ng declared.


DAD'S whole family will enjoy their free South Forbes membership regularly.

The free golf membership can be enjoyed by investors who purchase a lot or house and lot package at three world-class villages in South Forbes Golf City in Metro Sta. Rosa. Investors can choose among the charming South Forbes Mediterranean Villas, the resort-inspired Bali Mansions, and the Modern Zen community at Tokyo Mansions. Commercial lot owners are also entitled to the free golf membership.

Same privilege

Condominium unit investors will also enjoy the privilege. They can choose convenient living at the Esplanade, which features commercial spaces at the ground floor and residential units at the upper floors. Or they can have a grand view of the South Forbes fairways from their unit balcony at the Golf View Terraces.

"Why pay for a golf membership, when you can get it for absolutely free at South Forbes?" Ng reiterated. He also promised that investors will soon enjoy this exclusive amenity as construction for the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club is already in full blast. The first nine holes are expected to be finished by end-2006, and all 18 holes will be playable by end-2007.

Biggest one-stop mall to rise in Ilocos Norte

THE NEWEST AND BIGGEST PRIME DEVElopment in the northern part of the country will soon rise in Ilocos Norte, further boosting the province's economic takeoff and its bid to be the country's new front door to mainland Asia.

This was announced by Venvi Development Corp. chair Hilario Valdez whose company is responsible for conceptualizing the 20-hectare mixed-use development located in the growth corridor of Metro Laoag in the municipality of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

Friendly community

Envisioned to be a friendly community that will feature the architectural blend of the West and the Ilocano culture and art, Valdez disclosed that The Center will provide a stop-shop facility one could find only in the city as it boasts of the 30,000 square meter fully air-conditioned shopping mall with a supermarket, department store, national brand boutiques and fast-food stores, state-of-the-art cinemas and a host of other well-known retail brands and stores under one roof.

Also included in the one-stop facility are a US franchise 50-room boutique hotel, at least two commercial buildings, a provincial and city transport terminal, a 24-hour full-service gasoline station with its own retail stores and fast-food, and a 20,000-sq-m strip mall for bars, restaurants and all-day dining places.

FAÇADE of The Center

First of its kind

The first of its kind in the entire Ilocos province, the expansive, master-planned commercial and tourist property will provide a life of luxury both to fellow *kababayans* in Ilocandia and to the growing number of visitors to the province, further boosting the tourism industry in the area.

With the province's good infrastructure system and high-quality expressways, The Center will be highly accessible within and from the different parts of the province and the country, contributing to the economic activity in the locality.

It is also within driving distance to tourism spots which include the Malacañang of the North, the St. Augustine church in Paoay, the Cape Bojeador Lighthouse in Burgos, the windmill farm in Bangui and the world-famous white beaches of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

Ideal destination

Apart from its strategic location—being close to Mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and the other Southeast Asian countries—Ilocos Norte's big advantage is the presence of an international airport in Laoag City and the seaport in Currimao, making the region accessible from all points.

With the proposed establishment of a Chinese consulate in Laoag City, The Center will strengthen the province's position as an ideal destination for Chinese tourists.

AERIAL view of The Center

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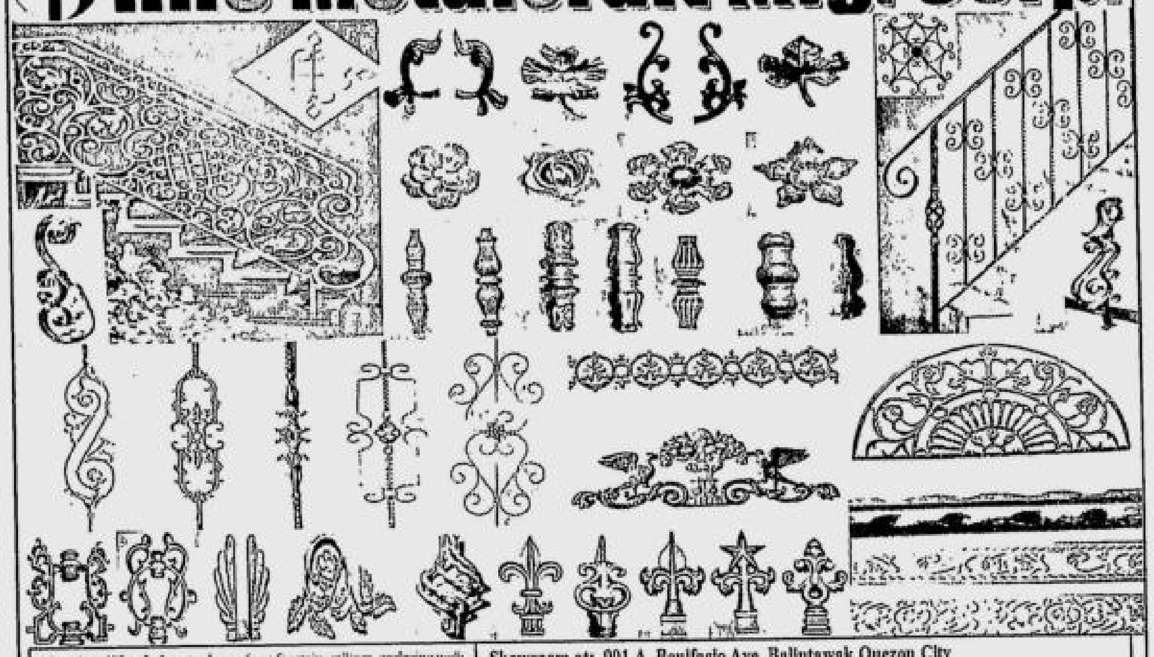

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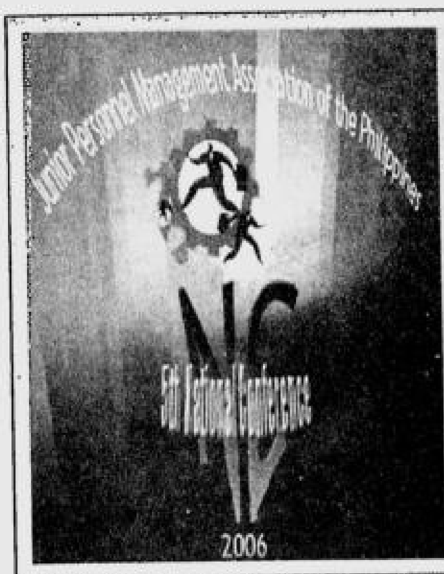
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JPMAP @ 10: Catalyst in Nation Building

RATIONALE of the THEME

The 5th Jr. Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (JPMAP) National Conference with the theme, "JPMAP at 10: CATALYST IN NATION BUILDING", is an opportune time for all youth to renew their commitment and conviction in leading the way to be a role model as various changes unfolds in their midst. Such [illegible] will start from within themselves while they pave the way for their respective immediate communities and families to follow the same conviction. And one of the triggering enablers is the [illegible] of urgency in adhering to the call of social responsibility in collaboration with other members of their immediate communities.

The way one's character is developed and nurtured has a great bearing in the way an individual fulfills his or her role as well as he or she interacts to others; [illegible] prudent choices in life; selecting and living the values; and exploring how he or she manages the changes; and more importantly creating and making positive changes from within oneself [illegible] inter-relating with others. In this way, he or she unleashes the leadership from within to inspire others in creating a better Filipino society.

Let us gleam with Confucius' unassailable maxim saying, "The way of a superior man is threefold: virtuous therefore free from anxiety; wise therefore free from perplexity; both therefore free from fear." Radiating with this wisdom, not only do we find contentment but as well as pass this very same disposition. To others for we so greatly create an impact on other's lives. As trained to be socially integrated leaders, molding within us the right character is the primary key to become a change agent, a catalyst in nation-building.

MESSAGES

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Manila

Mabuhay!

"I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the officers and members of the **Junior Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (JPMAP)** on the occasion of your **5th National Conference** to be held on February 18, 2006 at the Angelo King International Center with the theme **"JPMAP at 10: Catalyst in Nation-Building"**.

Your effort to develop and enrich cooperation, exchange of ideas, and collaboration among the youth is inspiring. The City of Manila, as a youth-friendly metropolis, envisions to empower our youth by playing active roles to hone their talents and intelligence, leadership and conviction, integrity and social consciousness.

As Father of the City, I urge you to remain unwavering in providing an appropriate venue for our young. I encourage you to remain as one of the city government's partners in shaping our youth's future through meaningful endeavors such as this.

I look forward to the success of this event.
Tuloy-tuloy ang programang "Buhayin ang Maynila!".
Buhay na Maynila, Buhay ng Bansa!

(sgd)
JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor

We in PMAP thank the student members of JPMAP for their commendable decision to become part of our growing family. There may be as many reasons for joining JPMAP as there are its members, but it is certain that you who now form part of its membership have made the right choice. JPMAP will certainly help you in your future careers as HR practitioners by broadening your horizons, introducing you to workplace and business practices, and providing avenues for you to build a working network that is the foundation of your future professional careers as people managers.

On this score, we would like to send our warmest congratulations to the incumbent JPMAP officers for successfully organizing this year's National JPMAP Conference. This exercise of solidarity gives value to being a JPMAP member, as it emphasizes the importance of the HR profession's collective role in nation building, through its commitment to forge cooperative ties between and among the Philippines' various industry players.

To the young officers and members of JPMAP, congratulations on making good use of your youth. Dare to dream even the impossible and see yourselves achieve it generation after generation.

Mabuhay ang JPMAP!

(sgd)
EMERICO O. DE GUZMAN, FPM
PMAP President

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Junior Personnel Management Association of the Philippines!

Your active involvement in the Association especially in organizing your 5th National Conference is already an achievement and a fulfilling experience for all of you, providing better opportunities once you enter the corporate world.

I commend all of you in this worthwhile endeavor. May you have a successful national conference.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

(sgd)
TERESITA E. DELA CRUZ, AFPM
Director-In-Charge, JPMAP

My cordial greetings to our delegates representing the different JPMAP member schools nationwide, distinguished resource speakers and guests to the 5th Jr. Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (JPMAP) National Conference 2006 with the theme, ***"JPMAP AT 10: CATALYST IN NATION BUILDING"***.

This year's theme aims to shift the gear to a higher level the passion of the *JPMAPers as prime movers* of creating and sustaining 'ripples of change' starting within oneself, within their immediate families, and within the various communities where they are directly a part of it. Our conference will be an occasion for us to renew our personal commitment and re-affirm our conviction in leading the way to be a *'catalyst of change'* as various developments, challenges, trials and conflicts unfold in today's brisk varying environment and inter-disciplinary world. We have our own respective roles and moral obligation in taking good care of our environment and in building a better Filipino society more than ever through an honest to goodness collaboration and inter-dependency.

It is essential that we continuously strengthen our character as a seedbed of excellence, integrity, respect, inter-dependence, social responsibility that we can apply in the manner we think, we speak and interact with others. The greater weight of one's effectiveness lies in his/her character. Character and competence is the foundation of personal trustworthiness. Therefore, a trustworthy person shall not have difficulty to inspire others and to lead them in creating positive change as well as dealing with other changes as it happens.

Let us carry on the mandate. Let us start from within the area where we have direct influence and not saddle ourselves with matters and issues that we do not have authority on...

Let us make prudent choices that will propel us to nurture and propagate the Filipino values of 'malasakit' and 'kabayanihan'.

I commend all the members and Committee Chairpersons of this year's National Conference Directorate under the leadership of Ms. Reah Cristina M. Artigo (U. S. T.), JPMAP Vice President and 5th National Conference Chairman, JPMAP President Mr. Luisito G. Tongson, Jr. (S. B. C.) together with Ms. Agnes E. Junio of the PMAP Professional Staff. They had invested unselfishly their time, effort, and delivered hard work that made this major event a great milestone.

Our profound gratitude to all resource speakers who unselfishly shared their expertise as well as all the sponsoring companies and individuals that made this endeavor a success. This conference would have not been possible if not for all your benevolence and unwavering support!

God bless!

(sgd)
ROBERTO M. POLICARPIO, AFPM
Chairman, Jr. PMAP

PROGRAMME

7:30 - 8:30 am	Conference Registration
8:30 – 9:30 am	OPENING CEREMONIES Invocation Jonathan dela Cruz & Kristine Caisido National Anthem Declaration of NC Opening *Reah Cristina Artigo* *JPMAP, Vice President & NC Chairperson* Rationale of the Theme Conference Theme: *"JPMAP at 10: Catalyst in Nation-Building"* Welcoming Remarks *Luisito Tongson, Jr.* *JPMAP President* Opening Message *Atty. Emerico O. de Guzman, FPM* *PMAP President*
9:30 am	Introduction of Keynote Speaker KEYNOTE ADDRESS Dr. Josette Biyo Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Director, PSHS-Western Visayas Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation Luisito Tongson, Jr & Reah Cristina Artigo
10:30 – 10:45	COFFEE BREAK
10:45 – 12:00	PLENARY SESSION 1 *"Building Character Building the Nation"* Raymond [illegible] *Center for Leadership & Change Inc.* Open Forum Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation Emil Hofileña & Rizaden Pitero
12:00 – 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00	PLENARY SESSION 2 *"Unleashing the Leadership in Us"* Edgardo R. Soriano, FPM *SVP-Organization, HR & Comm.* *PMAP President, 1995* *Personnel Manager of the Year 2005* Open Forum Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation Emil Cuaresma & April Casono
3:00 – 3:15	COFFEE BREAK
3:15 – 4:30	PLENARY SESSION 3 *"Service as a Catalyst of Change"* Bobbie Co-Laguitao, FPM *PMAP Board Secretary, 2004-2005* Open Forum Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation Luisito Tongson, Jr & Reah Cristina Artigo
4:30	Closing Remarks Reah Cristina Artigo *JPMAP, Vice President & NC Chairperson* Picture Taking /Awarding of Certificates
6:00 pm	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

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A month of pure romance at City Garden Hotel

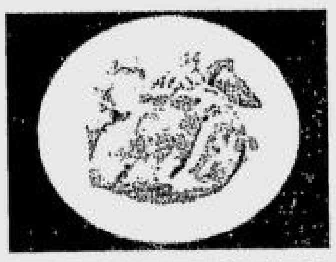
LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY TO spend this romantic month of February? How about a relaxing day or two in an elegantly furnished room, a spa treat for two, or a romantic dinner overlooking the city lights of the metropolis?

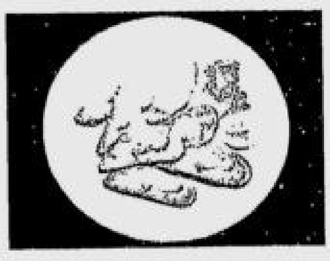
Let City Garden Hotel Makati takes you on a grand romantic day. First, check-in in one of its guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

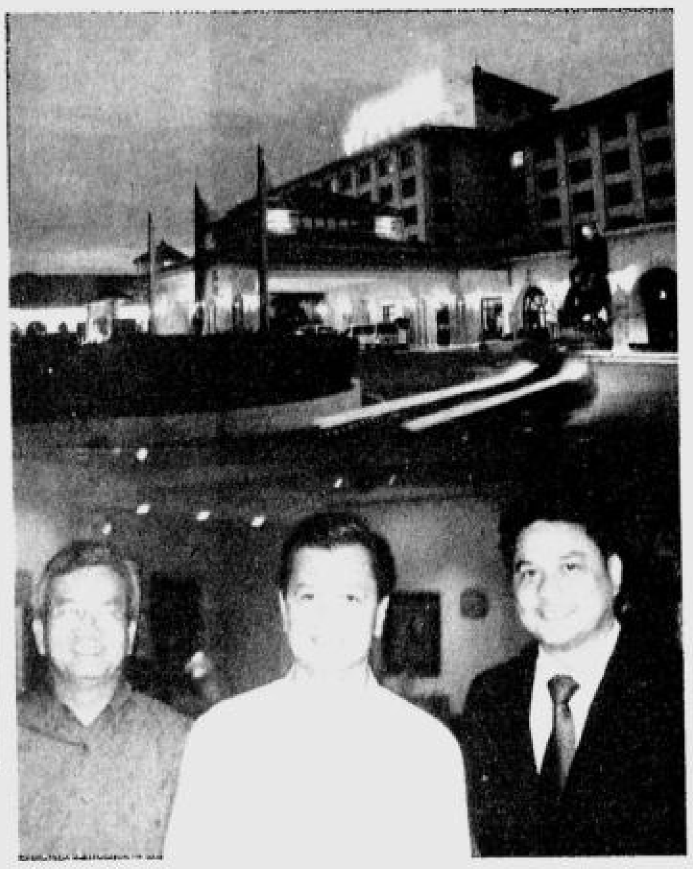
After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

After a day of fun activities, book a massage or facial treatment for two at Body & Face by Mendez for as low as P700 per person or try its Relaxing Retreat Package for as low as P1,000 per person, for that much needed rejuvenation.

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.







VICE PRESIDENT DE CASTRO VISITS WATERFRONT AIRPORT HOTEL AND CASINO

Vice President Noli de Castro during his recent visit in Cebu was welcomed by Casino Filipino Mactan Branch Manager Ernesto Francisco (left) and Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan's Hotel Manager Hembler Mendoza (right).

The Palm Hotels Valentine specials

FEBRUARY IS A VERY SPECIAL MONTH FOR The Palm Hotels and they have prepared something sweet and romantic that will surely make your moments with your special someone even more captivating and unforgettable.

Be lovestruck at Las Palmas Hotel. Located at 1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila, make it one of your romantic stops. Enjoy the affordable rate of P1,600 net for single or double occupancy plus a special Valentines souvenir.

Make 524 Pedro Gil cor. M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila the perfect place for your romantic interlude. Local residents and balikbayans will surely fall for Palm Plaza Hotel's P1,700.00 net rate for single or double occupancy plus a special Valentines gift.

Spend a romantic evening with your love ones at The Executive Plaza Hotel located at 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. Avail the affordable rate of P1,800 net for two for double or twin occupancy. A surprise Valentines gift awaits the couple.

Promo is valid for the whole month of February only. For reservations and inquiries, please call the Sales Office at: Las Palmas Hotel - 524-5612/521-1000, Palm Plaza Hotel - 524-7127/522-1000, and The Executive Plaza Hotel - 525-8969/523-1000.

A breath of space at Global City

RECEIVING A CALL FOR AN 8 A.M. RESERVATION with orders of iced-cold beer and their popular sisig is nothing new for Jaymi's Grill. The restaurant, located in the heart of the Fort, Taguig City, is the favorite hang-out of Makati-based call center agents. Not a surprising choice of place, actually. Jaymi's Grill's relaxing ambience allows these nightlife-deprived agents to enjoy a breath of space after a long night's toil.

Holding a night party for a big bunch of students and alumni celebrating their university's win in the UAAP is also a familiar scene at Jaymi's. Jaymi's Grill is an ideal place for celebrations such as this. It can accommodate up to 500 persons and offers affordable package customized according to the organizer's pick. The restaurant is also a sight to behold especially in the evening, when lights illuminate the garden-like setting as trees sway as if they were also rejoicing.

Jaymi's Grill is gaining popularity among office professionals and other groups who are looking for a venue minus the boxed-in feeling. The place is like home, cozy and welcoming with its wood interiors and native furnishings, what's more, it is easy to dress up depending on the occasion's theme.

For corporate gatherings like team-building seminars and mini-conferences, count on the resto's spacious air-conditioned function areas that can be converted to seat 20, 40, 75, or 100 plus guests.

Known for its purely Filipino cuisine, Jaymi's Grill can definitely satiate one's appetite for local fares from different regions. With its superb food in rich servings, dining at Jaymi's Grill is already a treat in itself.

At Jaymi's Grill, everything is all set. It's the hassle-free place to gel together and celebrate outside the office especially this Christmas season

Jaymi's Grill is located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. It also has an outlet in Waltermart, Pasong Tamo, Makati. For reservations and inquiries, call 887-2709/887-2741.

People, Events & Products

Be an effective board director

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES (TEL. NO. 842-7148 OR 59) in collaboration with Corporate Governance Institute of the Philippines and Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) will hold a seminar entitled "Essential Guide for Directors and Boards in Family Businesses". This one-day seminar will be held at the Conservatory, Peninsula Hotel, Makati City on Feb. 24. Learning how to be a professional director is as important as understanding how real boards work. The practice-oriented seminar aims to help participants become better board directors.

'All Sold Out' at Lourdes School

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG WILL HAVE ITS GRAND ALUMNI homecoming today at 5 p.m., at the Lourdes School of Mandaluyong grounds. Entitled "All Sold Out". All Lourdes School Mandaluyong alumni are invited to join the fun. For more information, call the sons of Lourdes Secretariat at 635-5664.

PIA 73rd Annual Convention

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS WILL HOLD ITS 73RD NAtional Convention and Exhibition on Feb. 21 to 25, at the DAP Convention Center simultaneously with its exhibits at the new place to be the "Tiendesitas", in Pasig City to further discuss issues and showcase their best products and services. The theme for this year's convention is "Architects Toward Greater Heights". For particulars or more information, contact architect Eric Gozar (cell 0919-4969841) or the PIA convention secretariat at the PIA Center, 2/F, No.65 East Capitol Drive, Bo. Capitolyo, Pasig City. Telephone numbers are 634-2512 and 634-1762 or e-mail eric@gozar.biz.

AIM Alumni Homecoming Events

THE MBA CLASS '86 IS PROUD TO HOST THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF Management (AIM) Alumni Homecoming Events this year. Opening this celebration is the AIM Triple A Cup Badminton Tournament on Feb. 25, at the Manila Polo Club. This will be followed by the AIM2Lead CUP 2006 Golf Tournament on March 3, at the Ayala Greenfield Golf & Leisure Club. It will be capped by a spectacular night of entertainment dubbed as the AIM Alumni Homecoming 2006 Night on March 3, 7:30 p.m., at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Registration is at 5:30 p.m.

AHS '71 Alumni Homecoming

CALLING THE ATTENTION OF ALL GRADUATES OF Araullo High School Class 1971, there will be an Alumni Homecoming today at 1 p.m. at the Araullo High School, Taft Avenue cor. UN Avenue, Manila. See all your former friends, classmates and teachers.

Clips

Marvel, Bratz toys at BK

BURGER KING BRINGS MARVEL AND BRATZ EXCLUSIVE toys at very affordable prices. Get any (1) toy for any purchase of the following meals: BK Ham & Cheese plus drink for only P65, Blazing burger and drink for only P75, 1-pc. BK Crispy Tender Fried Chicken and drink for P90 and Whopper Jr. with drink for P90. There are 3 kinds of Marvel toys available for little aspiring heroes and 3 kinds of Bratz trinkets for little Princesses. Toys available until Feb. 27 only, hurry!

Robitussin
LiquiGel

EVEN DARNA NEEDS A COUGH MEDICATION

Popular TV actress Angel Locsin once again dons her 'Darna' costume, this time to promote the revolutionary cough medication, Robitussin LiquiGel, the first of its form in easy-to-swallow liquid-filled gel capsule in the local cough market. Robitussin LiquiGel offers four hours of no-drowse cough relief. Photo shows Angel with Pikay dela Cruz (group product manager), Gary Mendoza (country manager) and Edwin Kulzon (marketing director) of Wyeth Consumer Healthcare during the contract-signing for the Robitussin LiquiGel TV commercial.

ROADTALK

E-mail: sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Aries Espinosa**

3 MPVs of diverse styles

www.toyota.com.ph

MINI FAMILY HAULERS OF TODAY are no longer just the boxy type vans running like refrigerators with wheels on the highways.

Many of the new generation family transporters are sloping façade mini-bullet train-look-alike multipurpose vans.

Toyota Previa, Mitsubishi Grandis and Chrysler's Town and Country are practically of diverse classes in terms of features.

Aside from its whale with the feline eyes look in front, the Toyota Previa is outstanding because of its wide windows. It has an overall length, width and height of 4,780mm x 1,790mm x 1,780mm. Its wheelbase is 2,900mm, curb weight at1650 kg, minimum turning radius at 5.8 m and fuel tank capacity of 75 liters.

It has multireflector headlamps, sleek exterior, and the full-width backdoor garnish connecting its taillights plus rear spoiler.

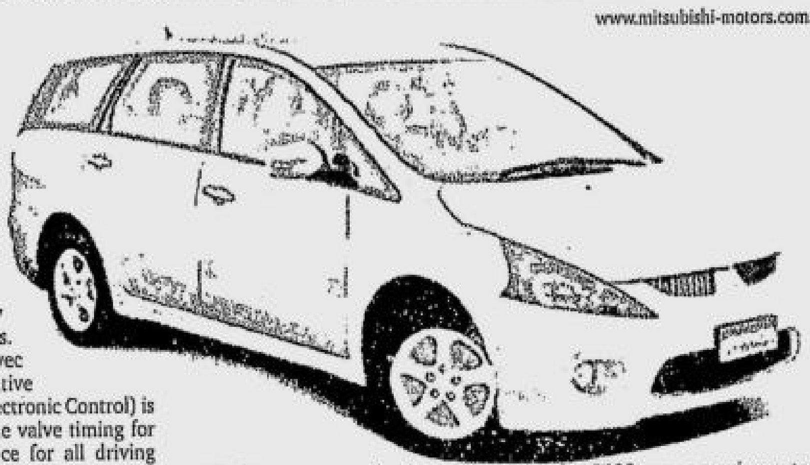
Previa credits its smooth, comfortable ride and a positive, confident driving to its rigid chassis and advanced suspension. It is available with a responsive, efficient 2.4 liter VVT-i 16 valve gasoline powerplant with maximum output of 157 hp at 5700 rpm.

www.chrysler.com

The Previa is known for its precise handling despite its size. Pegged at P1.895 million, the seven-seater van has created not just an illusion of spaciousness and comfort in its interior but a roomy and convenient passenger and luggage carrying flexibility.

Mitsubishi Grandis also seats seven but is more compact (length 4765mm, width 1795mm, height 1655mm, wheelbase 2830mm, curb weight 1625kg, ground clearance at 155mm, turning radius at 5.5) and cheaper than the Previa at P1.505 million.

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph



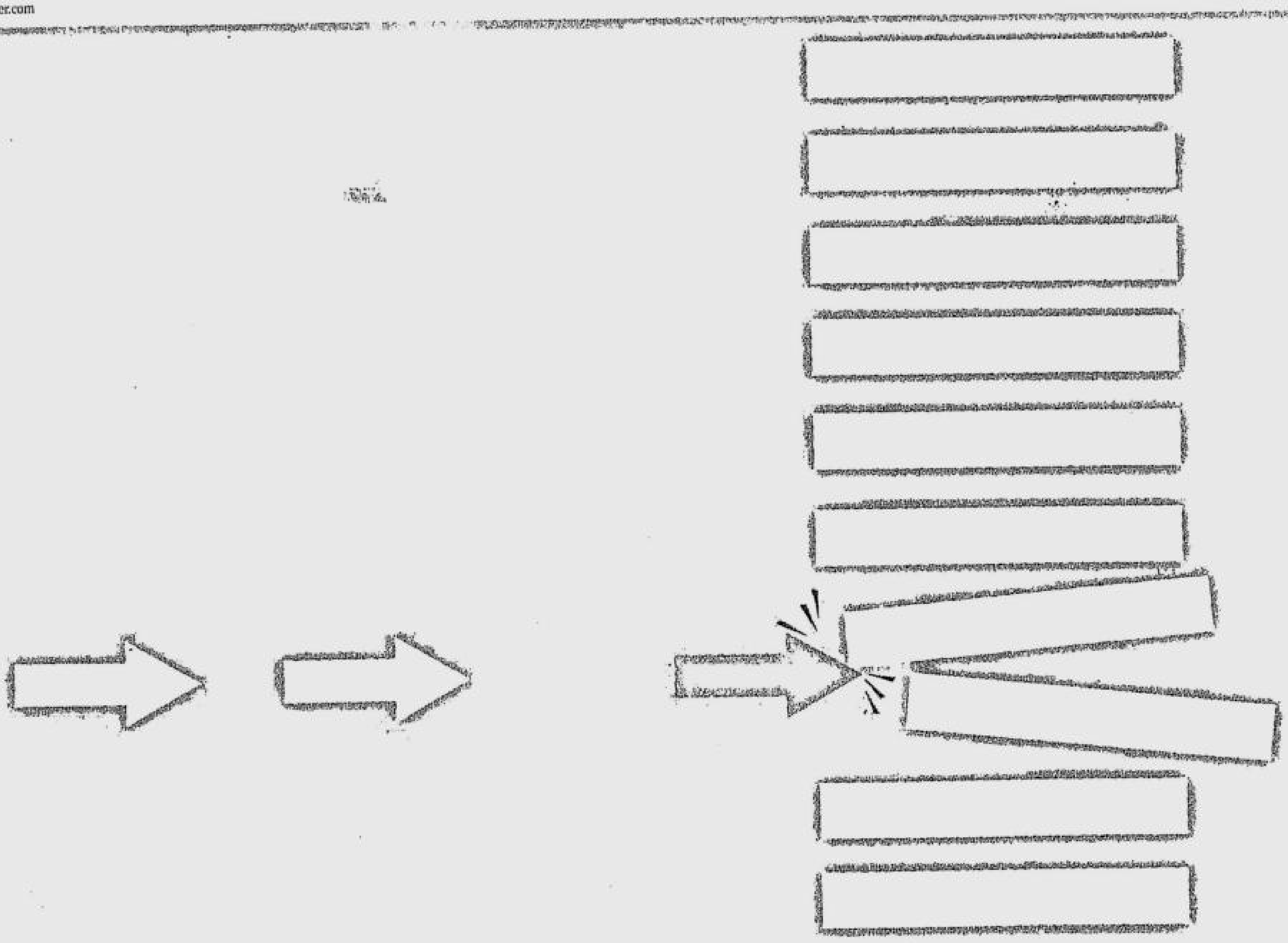
It displays spirited driving with its 2.4-liter Mivec engine. This 16-valve SOHC engine also sets new standards for efficiency and low emissions. That's what Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Timing lift Electronic Control) is for. It can adjust the valve timing for optimal performance for all driving conditions. This enables higher torque at low rpm ranges for quick, clean starts and higher output in the higher ranges for better passing ability.

The Chrysler's Town and Country Touring is a class on its own if only because it can open its own sliding doors and rear doors in a push of a button (power sliding doors and power lift gate).

The biggest among the three, Town and Country has an overall length of 5093mm, overall width of 1996mm, overall height of 1852mm. and a wheelbase of 3030mm. Its fuel tank capacity is 76 liters.

At a price tag of P2.250 million, the Town and Country comes equipped with a 3.8-liter, V6 OHV, 12 valve-engine. It has a maximum output of 205hp/5200 rpm, a maximum torque of 240lb-ft/4000 rpm.

The T&C is laden with luxury features that include cruise control steering wheel mounted, illuminated vanity mirrors on sun visors, overhead console with a trip computer, leather seats and side trims, "Stow N Go" seating configuration, and front and rear power outlets.



DISOBEDIENCE CAN COST A LIFE.
Road signs are meant to save lives.

We at Toyota believe that if we make our roads safer, not only do we save human lives, we move towards making both economic and social progress possible.

Save lives by observing road traffic safety. Join us in supporting the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists' (SPMJ) "Early Warning" project on Road Traffic Safety Education of School Children and the Road Traffic Safety Conferences of the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

TOYOTA
moving forward
TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

Styled with class, built for functionality

OPTRA Wagon

OPTRA Wagon

THE CHEVROLET OPTRA WAGON is the latest compact car that boasts features of both a sedan and a station wagon. Styled by the world-famous Italian design house-Pininfarina-the Chevrolet Optra Wagon is built at GM Thailand's world-class manufacturing plant in Rayong. It exudes handsome exteriors, spacious interiors and features a simple yet classy designed dashboard, and a tilt-adjusting steering column that allows for driving convenience and comfort.

The Optra Wagon offers more space and has features like the roof rail apparatus. Inside, metallic instrument panel trim replaces the sedan's black trim, framing a state-of-the-art 5-in-dash CD player. Equipped with speed-sensitive steering, power assist, and steering wheel mounted stereo control, the Optra Wagon also provides undisturbed driving with sound-absorbent foam, a special noise suppression system and a hydraulic engine mount that absorbs shock and reduces noise when starting, accelerating and braking.

The Optra Wagon has the roomiest interior in its class, including 60-40 split-folding rear seatback for both people and cargo-moving functionality. It is also the first car in its class equipped with a compact cool box conveniently located in a front compartment.

The Optra Wagon is equipped with a 1.6-liter E-Tec II 4-Cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine that generates 110 hp, delivering increased performance and lower fuel consumption. The Chevrolet Optra Wagon has been put through 1.8 million km of durability tests to ensure its performance under real driving conditions.

The Optra Wagon has been engineered to provide the quietest possible ride, and features the unique Euro-Ride Tuning Suspension shock-absorbing system, which is specially designed to accommodate load distribution for any road condition. Its 15-inch alloy wheels enhance the Optra Wagon's grip on the road.

The Optra Wagon has received the top safety rating from the American Insurance Association, having been tested in over 190 crash tests to ensure the safest crumple zone. Its safety is ensured through a driver-side air bag, ABS and 4-wheel disc brakes with EBD (Electronic Brake Distribution) system as well as a survival zone.

The 1.6 Chevrolet Optra Wagon is available in 4-speed automatic and 5-speed manual transmission models which offer additional value-added amenities. The result is a fine combination of luxury and practicality that complements the active lifestyles of today's fun-loving and exciting generation.

All-new 2006 Civic achieves Top Safety Pick-Gold Award

THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE For Highway Safety (IIHS) announced that the 2006 Honda Civic has achieved the Institute's new "Top Safety Pick - Gold" award, after earning "Good" ratings in frontal, side impact and rear impact tests and measurements. The 2006 Civic is the only small car and one of only five vehicles to earn this designation from the IIHS. "Top Safety Pick - Gold" award combines crash results achieved from frontal offset 40 mph (64 kph), side impact and rear crash tests with static seat measurements for the head restraints. A result of "Good" in all three categories is required to earn "Top Safety Pick - Gold" status. The 2006 Honda Civic is the only small car to have ever earned a "good" rating in the IIHS Side Impact and frontal offset test. Due to a combination of "Good" results in the six categories comprising the frontal offset test, it was also awarded a "Good - Best Pick" rating for that category.

In keeping with the Honda "Safety for Everyone" initiative, standard safety systems in the 2006 Civic include the exclusive-to-Honda Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) Body Structure. The ACE Body Structure design is intended to help manage the forces of frontal collisions and enhance crash compatibility in vehicle-to-vehicle frontal crashes. Conceived around "real world" safety, this newly developed front-end frame structure incorporates new upper and lower frame members to significantly enhance energy dispersion in frontal collisions.

All models of the all-new 2006 Civic provide a long list of standard safety equipment including side curtain airbags, driver's and front passenger's side airbags with the Honda's front passenger Occupant Position Detection System (OPDS) and a 4-channel anti-lock braking system (ABS) with Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD).

The 2006 Civic marks the introduction of Honda's new Active Head Restraint front seat design that enhances the seat's ability to minimize the potential for neck injuries caused by rear end collisions. In the event of a rear collision, a person's body is pushed against the seatback. The pressure from the seatback is transmitted mechanically from the lumbar plate via links that push the head restraint upward and forward to help to equalize the forces acting on the head, neck and spine.

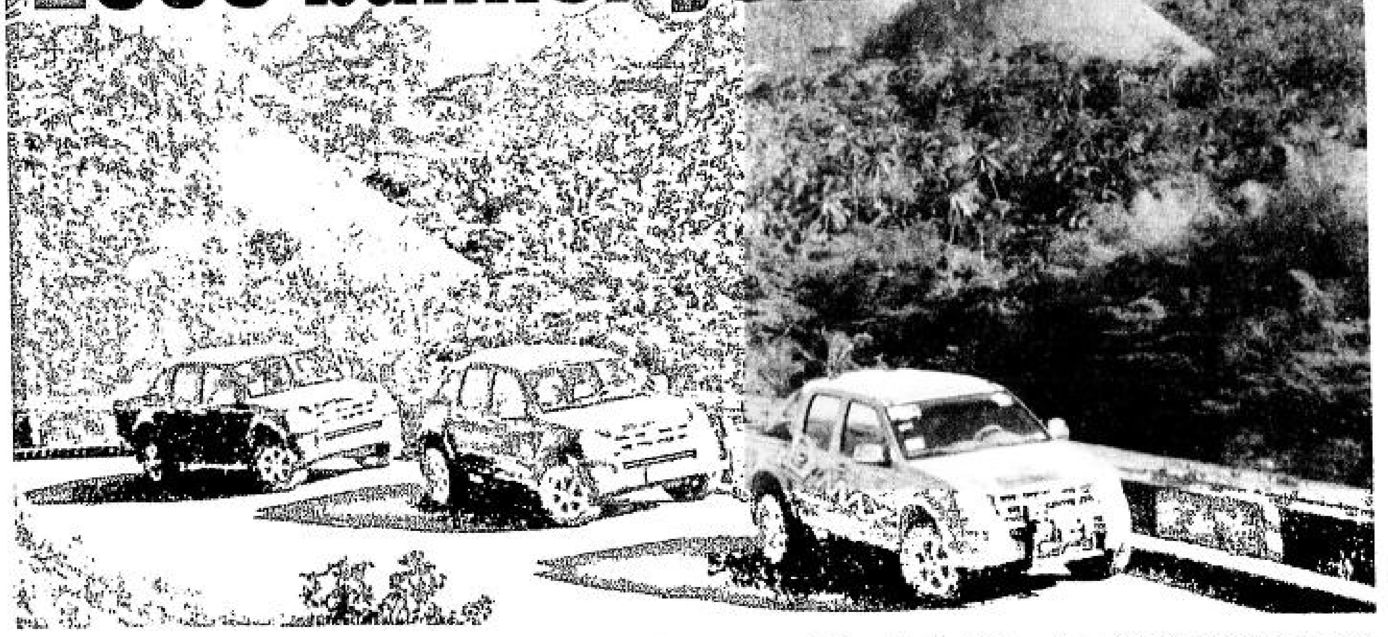
Honda's commitment to safety extends to pedestrians as well. To help reduce pedestrian injuries in the event of a collision, the Civic's hood and fender areas are designed to help absorb energy if contacted by an adult or child pedestrian.

"The all-new eighth generation 2006 Honda Civic debuted in early September. The Civic Hybrid, which achieves an EPA-rated city/highway fuel economy of 49/51 mpg, went on sale Oct. 19 and the high-performance Civic Si version with 197-hp debuted Dec. 1. Additionally, Motor Trend magazine recently named the Civic its 2006 Car of the Year.

Much-anticipated Civic debuts in Top Gear

TALK THAT HONDA IS LAUNCHING THE LATEST CIVIC HAS been going around since last year. Excitement and anticipation is growing that even without brochures, pictures or any information about this eighth generation Civic, some Honda dealers are getting early reservations. The car is believed to be so hot that the manufacturer gave Top Gear the exclusive inside look of this much-anticipated sedan. Boasting a bigger power plant, more fuel-efficient engine, roomier interior, and sleeker, more upscale looks, Honda will unveil it on April but you can read about the latest Civic on Top Gear's March issue, out in the newsstands by end of February.

2005 banner year for Isuzu



ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP - THE automotive industry's diesel-engine authority — again ended another calendar year on a high note as it wrapped off 2005 with several remarkable feats. At the top of this impressive list of achievements is the D-Max's continuing dominance in the pickup category. The tough and powerful D-Max again topped all pickups available locally with 2,440 sold units last year, translating to a commanding 35.2-percent share of the market. This marks the second consecutive year that the D-Max has been the best-selling pickup in the Philippines since its launch in November 2003.

True to its world-renowned reputation as a maker of high-quality and dependable workhorses, Isuzu also reigned supreme in the categories of light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The N-Series light truck was again number one in its class for the seventh consecutive year, selling 888 units or an overwhelming market share of 68.3 percent. The F-Series medium truck also dominated its class, moving 189 units for a 71.9-percent market share. Not surprisingly, Isuzu also bested its rivals in the heavy-duty truck category, with a remarkable 73.1-percent market share.

Clearly, Isuzu's leadership in the pickup and truck segments underscores its status as the preeminent assembler of the best commercial vehicles not only in the Philippjnes but also in the world.

What made Isuzu tick in 2005 aside from its excellent product line? Simple: a dynamically sustained marketing campaign throughout the year that consisted of well-timed product launches and strategic media and public activities.

The biggest Isuzu news in 2005 was the arrival of the all-new Alterra sports recreational vehicle in May. Powered by Isuzu's third-generation common-rail, direct-injection 3.0-liter 4JJ-1 I-TEQ diesel engine, the robust and excellent-riding Alterra was initially available as rear-wheel-drive unit, with the four-wheel-drive version following seven months later in December. The Alterra gave Isuzu a high-end sporty family vehicle in the mold of the Trooper.

The second biggest happening at Isuzu in 2005 was the official launch of its Powertrain business in August. For the first time in the local auto industry, a car company has made available diesel engines for industrial, marine and automotive applications. This spelled good news for the marine industry, operators and assemblers of jeepneys, and owners of bus and truck fleets.

Equally important was the launch of the much-improved Web site of Isuzu Philippines Corp (www.isuzuphil.com) in November. Aimed at Generation Isuzu - a generation of Filipinos who grew up with Isuzu as it evolved from a maker of practical cargo haulers into a producer of lifestyle vehicles - the refurbished Web site is designed to enable IPC serve its customers better and make vehicle shopping a more convenient and pleasurable experience for them.

Coinciding with the relaunch of Isuzuphil.com was the introduction of the 2006 Crosswind multipurpose vehicle, now boasting classier interior and exterior materials as well as new exciting body colors.

To demonstrate the toughness of its vehicles to the public, Isuzu brought in veteran and world-class rally drivers Bruce Garland and Harry Suzuki in April. The pair showed impressed observers exactly why Isuzu vehicles are among the most durable and dependable in the world, designing a challenging dirt track at the Fort Global City in Taguig and effortlessly driving Isuzu vehicles through it.

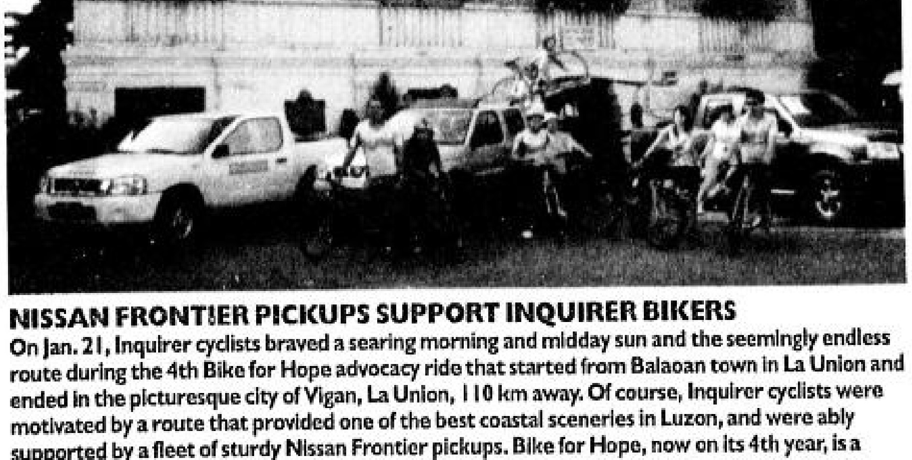
But if there's one area in which Isuzu really stood out, it was in organizing out-of-town media ride-and-drive activities, brilliantly tying its formidable product line to local tourist destinations. Against scenic and breathtaking backdrops around the archipelago, the Alterra, the Crosswind and the D-Max all became the unofficial Filipino means of transport for many vehicle buyers in the country.

The choice of destinations was impeccable. Isuzu brought the Crosswind Sportivo to the Island Garden City of Samal in February; the D-Max to Bohol in April; and the Alterra to Southern Luzon in June and to Guimaras Island in September.

IPC wasn't lacking in no-nonsense corporate and socially responsible activities either. In February, the company commenced its SEE (Safety, Economy and Environment) drive, with the aim of increasing positive diesel awareness among the public. Isuzu staged caravans and held public test drives to showcase the superiority of its diesel technology and commercial-vehicle lineup. The campaign culminated with a youthful cheerleading competition held in May at Market! Market! inside the Fort Global City. In August, IPC celebrated its eighth inaugural anniversary not with a lavish party but with a socially conscious tree-planting activity in a deforested area in the province of Quezon.

Finally, Isuzu capped a successful year with the formal launch of the Alterra 4x4 that coincided with a truly merry Eighties-themed Christmas party for the media.

If Isuzu was again a smashing success in 2005, it was largely because the diesel expert was able to support an unparalleled product line with action-packed activities that made the market fully aware of Isuzu's vehicle quality and diesel perfection.



NISSAN FRONTIER PICKUPS SUPPORT INQUIRER BIKERS

On Jan. 21, Inquirer cyclists braved a searing morning and midday sun and the seemingly endless route during the 4th Bike for Hope advocacy ride that started from Balaoan town in La Union and ended in the picturesque city of Vigan, La Union, 110 km away. Of course, Inquirer cyclists were motivated by a route that provided one of the best coastal sceneries in Luzon, and were ably supported by a fleet of sturdy Nissan Frontier pickups. Bike for Hope, now on its 4th year, is a project of Sen. Pia Cayetano (herself an accomplished duathlete) that raises awareness for her various cause-oriented groups. Shown are Inquirer cyclists hamming it up in Vigan with Nissan Frontier pickups and a typical old Vigan house serving as the backdrop.

On the Dakar Rally: Mitsubishi rules!

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS MADE HISTORY today when its Pajero/Montero Evolution crew Luc Alphand/Gilles Picard won the Dakar Rally, claiming a record-breaking 11th overall victory and sixth consecutive win for the Japanese manufacturer on this legendary rally. Repsol Mitsubishi Ralliart teammates Joan "Nani" Roma and Henri Magne also finished on the podium, in third position, while defending champions Stéphane Peterhansel and Jean-Paul Cottret took fourth overall.

The grueling event, which started on New Year's Eve, covered more than 9,000 km and all three Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero Evolutions barely missed a beat as they powered over some of Africa's most remote and inhospitable terrain. The team's only disappointment during the last 16 days was the retirement of its fourth car, driven by Hiroshi Masuoka and Pascal Maimon.

The outright success is the first for Alphand-last year's runner-up and a former World Downhill skiing champion-and the second for his French co-driver Gilles Picard, who had won the Dakar with fellow countryman Jean-Pierre Fontenay in 1998.

The Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero Evolution crew had taken the outright lead between Bamako in Mali and Labé in Guinea, when former multiple winner Peterhansel crashed into a tree and damaged his rear suspension and transmission. Despite fierce pressure from second-placed South African driver Giniel de Villiers, Alphand took few risks over the closing three days of the 15-leg event to record a winning margin of 17 minutes and 53 seconds after the final timed section near Dakar was cancelled.

"I knew I had a great chance to win," said Alphand. "The team worked so hard on the development of our car and I think over the 15 days we were the better all-round outfit. It's a fantastic feeling to win

DAKAR/ B3-3

Dakar . . .

From page B3-2

the Dakar. I experienced many highs and lows in my skiing career, but this is so different."

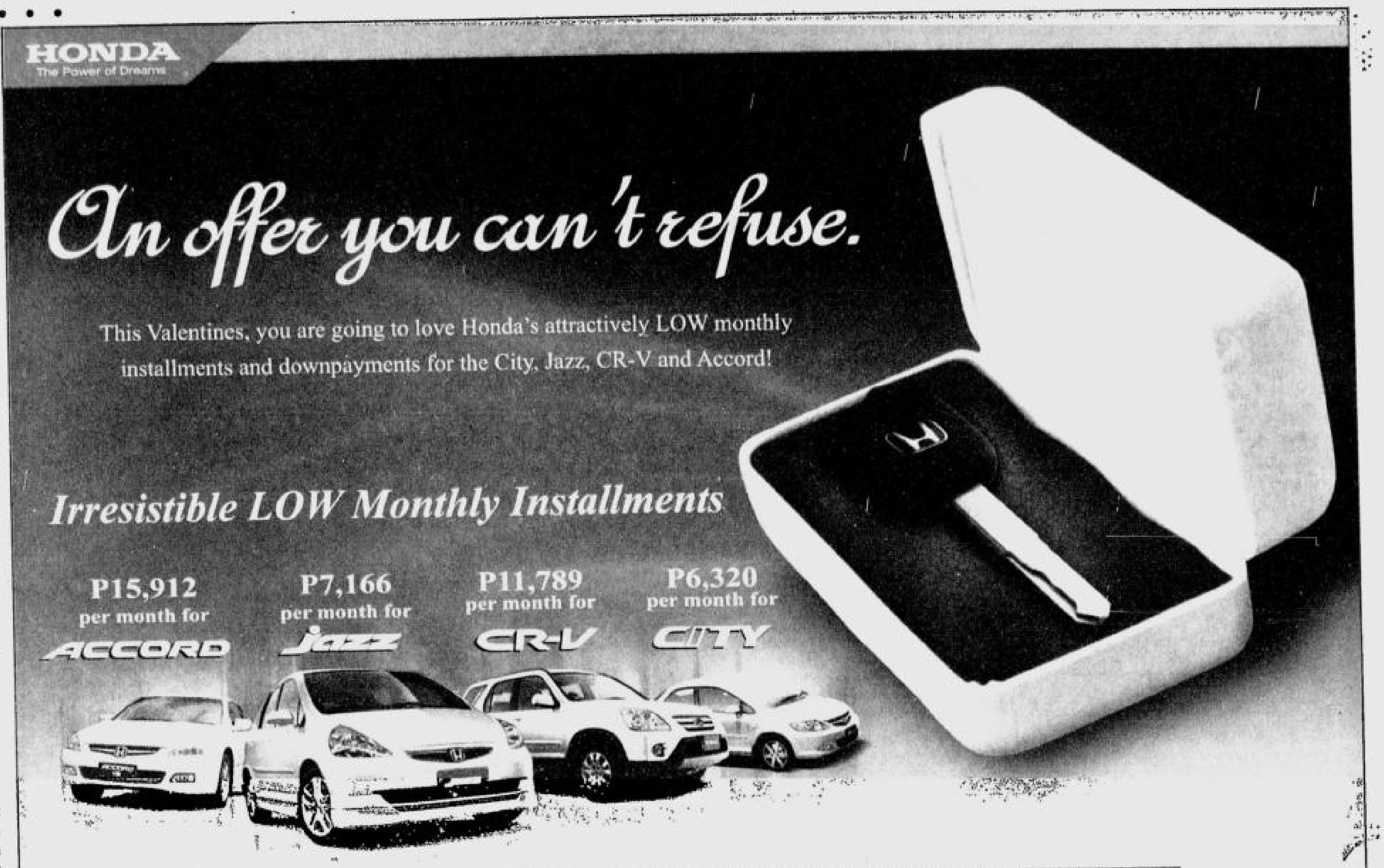
Spaniard Roma joined the Mitsubishi team for his first event in October 2005 and finished sixth on his Dakar debut on four wheels last year. On this occasion he and Andorra-based co-driver Magne finished a superb third overall in a second Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero Evolution.

"It has been a fantastic race from the start," said Roma. "All the time it has been close, exciting and very difficult for the drivers and co-drivers. For me it is great to be on the podium. I am part of a superb team at Mitsubishi and everyone has worked so hard to achieve this success."

The French duo of Peterhansel and Cottret had moved into the outright lead of the event on the second of four stages through the Islamic Republic of Mauritania last week. But the eight-time winner then struck a tree and lost over three hours and any chance of taking a hat-trick of wins in the world's toughest rally.

"I made a mistake a few days ago and with the level of competition we have seen this year on the Dakar, there was no way I could recover that time," said Peterhansel. "I am disappointed that I could not complete the hat-trick of wins, but Mitsubishi has won the race and that is the priority. It is also great for Luc and Gilles to take their first win together."

Repsol Mitsubishi Ralliart team president Isao Torii said: "I am so happy for every member of our team. I would like to thank everyone for their work and thanks also to our partners and sponsors for their efforts.



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Optra 1.6 L M/T	650,000	89,000	49,946	34,225	26,541	18,888	15,131	13,185	7,638
Optra 1.6 L A/T	696,000	89,000	54,042	37,032	28,717	20,436	16,372	14,266	8,179
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	724,000	89,000	56,535	38,740	30,042	21,379	17,127	14,924	8,508
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The Boston Globe names all New-2006 Hyundai Sonata 'Family Vehicle of the Year'

BOSTON, MASS., NOVEMBER 10, 2005 --THE Boston Globe newspaper names the 2006 Hyundai Sonata its "Family Vehicle of the Year" at the New England International Auto Show, ahead of rivals like the Ford Fusion. Sonata's excellent value, good fuel economy and segment-leading standard safety features, such as Electronic Stability Control (ESC), six airbags, and anti-whiplash head restraints plays a key role in the New England Motor Press Association's decision. "Sonata winning 'Family Vehicle of the Year' says we are doing the right thing by including the most effective safety technologies in all of our cars, while still keeping the price genuinely affordable," said Bob Cosmai, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor America. "At Hyundai, we don't think industry-leading safety equipment should be reserved for luxury vehicles." The New England Motor Press Association reviewed the entire spectrum of new family vehicles to provide its readers with information they need to make the right choice in today's complicated and competitive automotive landscape.

The new Hyundai Getz: Smart and Stylish Hatchback

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. launched today the 2006 CRDi powered Getz. With a clean contemporary shape, a remarkably versatile interior and advanced safety features, Getz is the proud result of Hyundai's "System Design" philosophy.

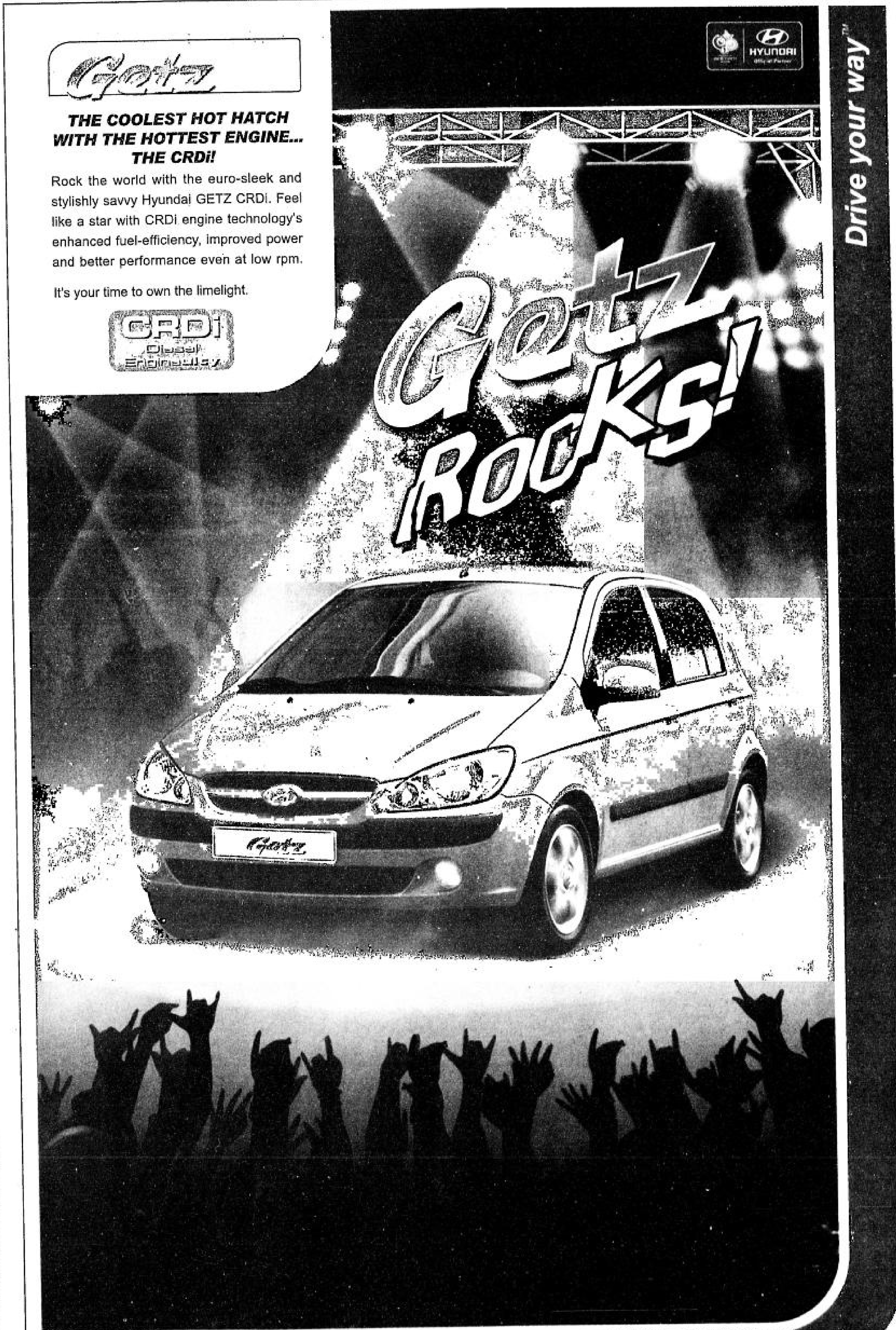
The Getz struts a horizontal radiator grille slat and the prominent "H" badge that lends a visual continuity to the front view. It has a projector-type clear headlights, round fog lamps, a unique 3-nozzle washer system for the Front Wipers, refreshed tail lamps, and all Power Features all contributing to an ideal blend of form and functionality.

Well-designed interiors comprise of a Roof Side Tray, Power Window Switch, Steering Column under Tray, Cluster, Map lamp, Glove Box, Seat Back Hook, Seat Side and Door pockets and a Floor Console. A Luggage Board and Net also provide extra storage to maximize passenger space.

Getz's state-of-the-art equipment includes front driver and passenger de-powered airbags, side airbags with head protection, and a computer-aided rigid chassis design.

Driver safety and comfort took priority in designing the GETZ cockpit. That is why it has a large panoramic windscreen for excellent visibility and logically placed, easy-to-use controls.

The diesel-fed Getz is powered by Hyundai's innovative CRDi technology. Combined with environmental friendly motor driven power steering make it a powerful and fuel efficient accessory. The Getz CRDi is priced at P628,000.



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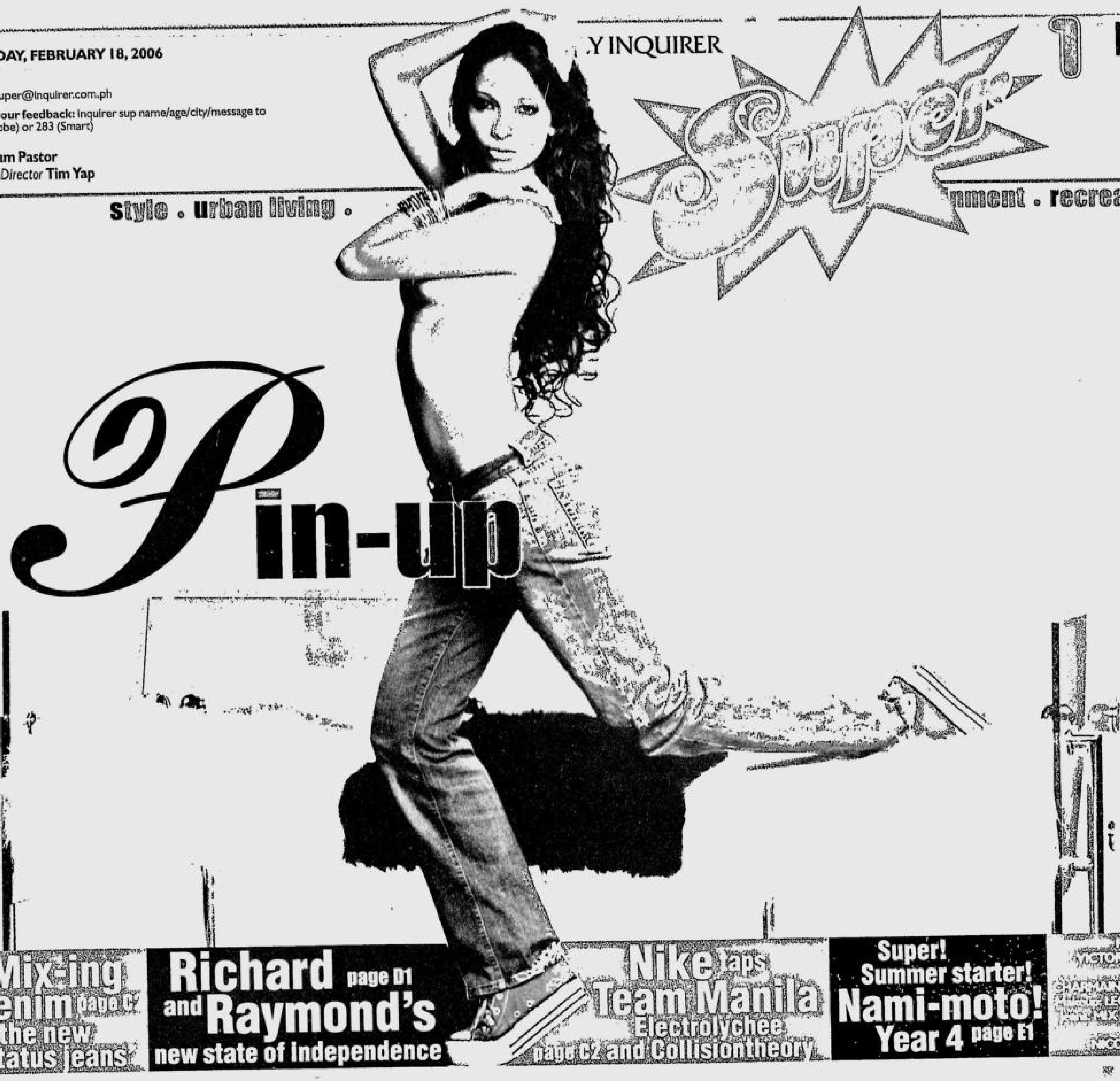

Pin-up

Mix-ing denim page C7 the new status jeans

Richard and Raymond's page D1 new state of independence

Nike taps Team Manila Electrolychee page C2 and Collisiontheory

Super! Summer starter! Nami-moto! Year 4 page E1

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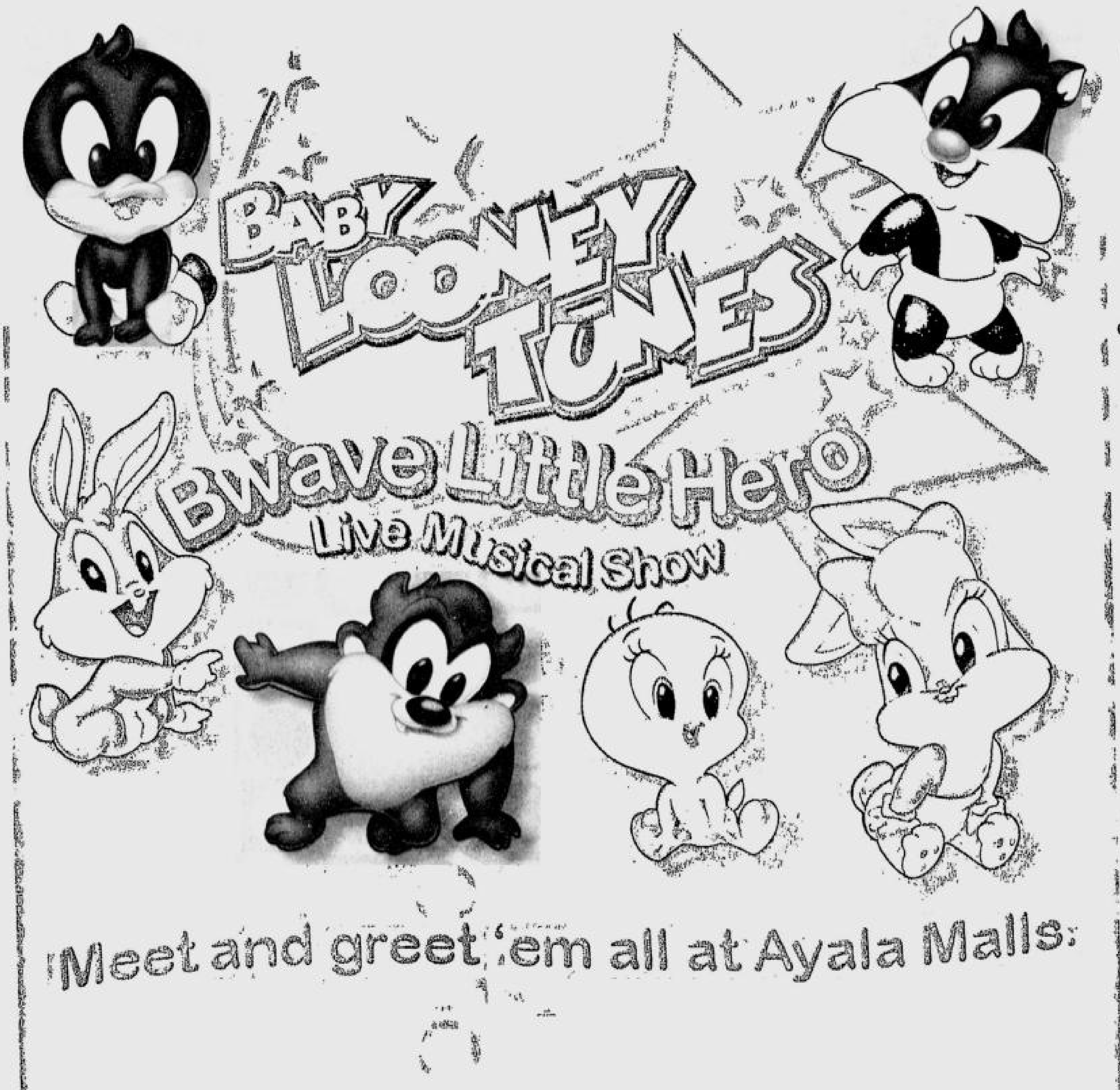

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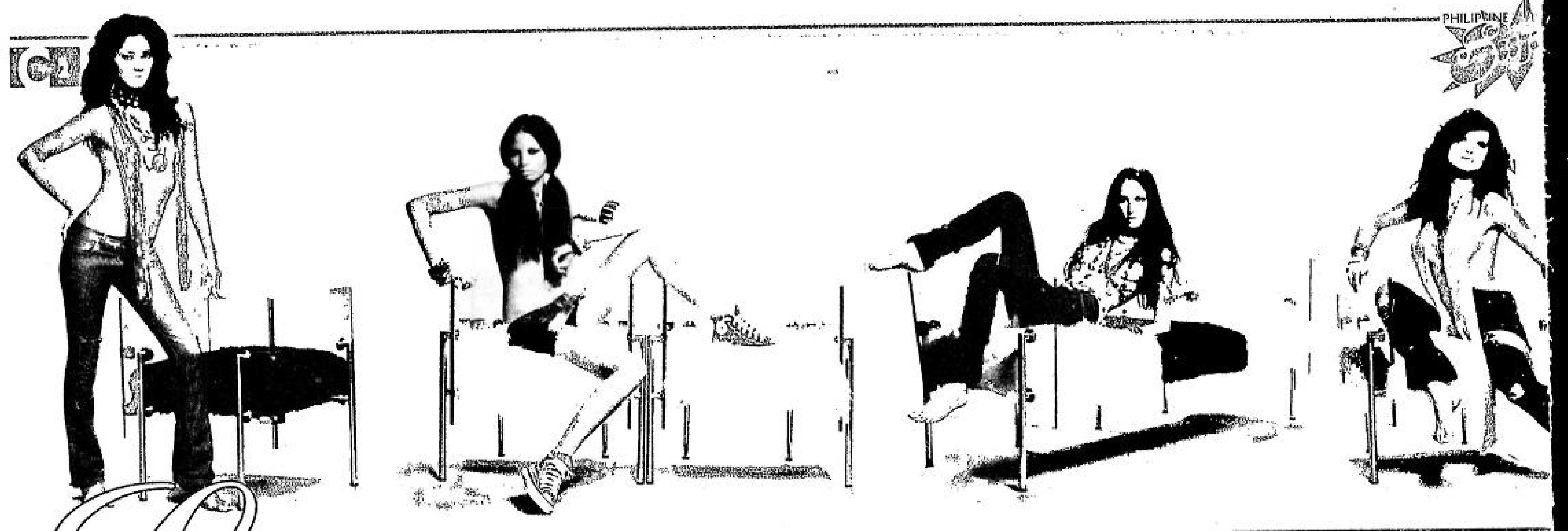
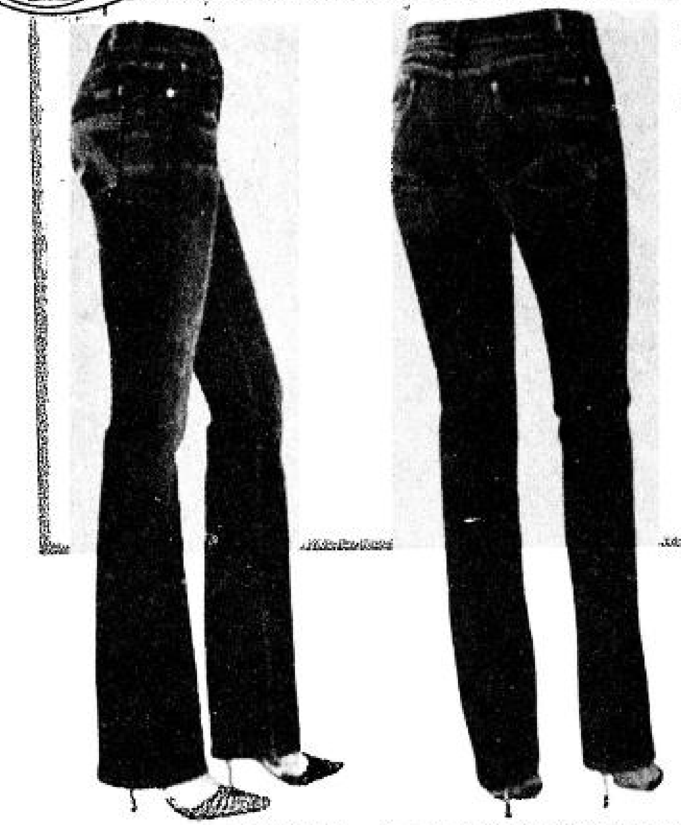


Something got mixed up in the



ALL THESE and more, available at Mix Greenbelt

By Tals Diaz and Tim Yap
Photos by Victor Consunji

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE status bag, that one item that fashion forward females could never leave home without. It was that tantalizing, signature tote that served as a carry all for their precious booty.

Yet times have changed, so much like a fickle female, for the current status *objet d'art* has shifted to something a little lower. (But it still holds your precious *booty*.) It's all in the jeans now. The denim staple has come a long *long* way since it was was first used by railroad workers. Now they're flaunted by railroad owners. Talk about a leg up! We call it a serious evolution in the jean pool.

Seven For All Mankind

Started in the fall of 2000, this superstar brand enjoyed instant success with its focus on fit, finish and fabrics. Its strong celebrity following continues to this day.

Citizens Of Humanity

Jerome Dahan, originally of Seven, is the mastermind behind this amazingly hot denim line known for its vintage look and high quality. Citizen's rocket ascent to denim stardom is a direct result of its universal fit.

True Religion

True Religion was established in December 2002 to take denim in a new direction. This Los Angeles based premium denim company has become known for its intense attention to detail.

Chip And Pepper

The creation of ident
and Pepper Foster, it w
LA in the fall of 2003.
spired collection merge
and superior quality and

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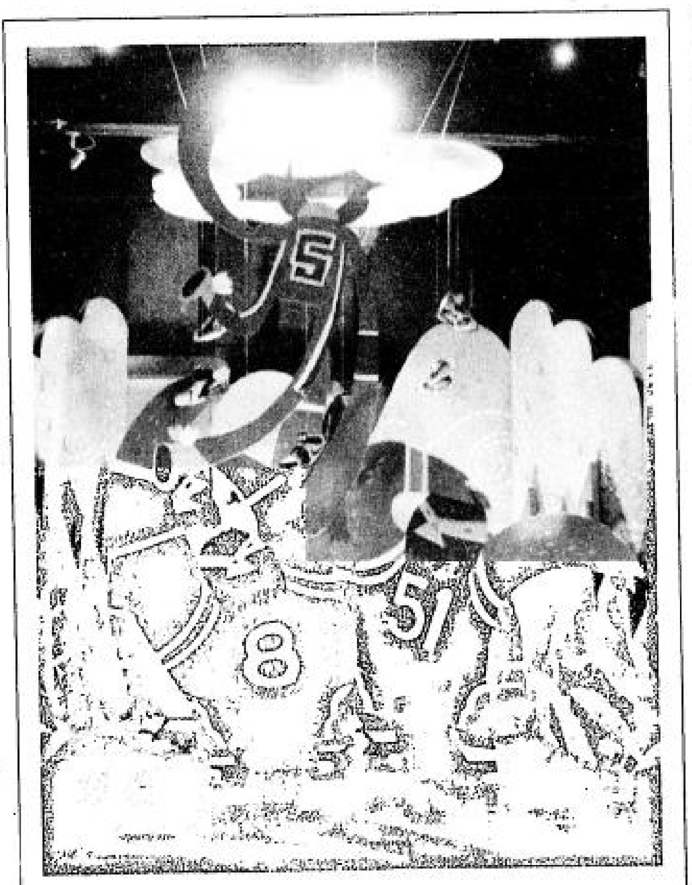
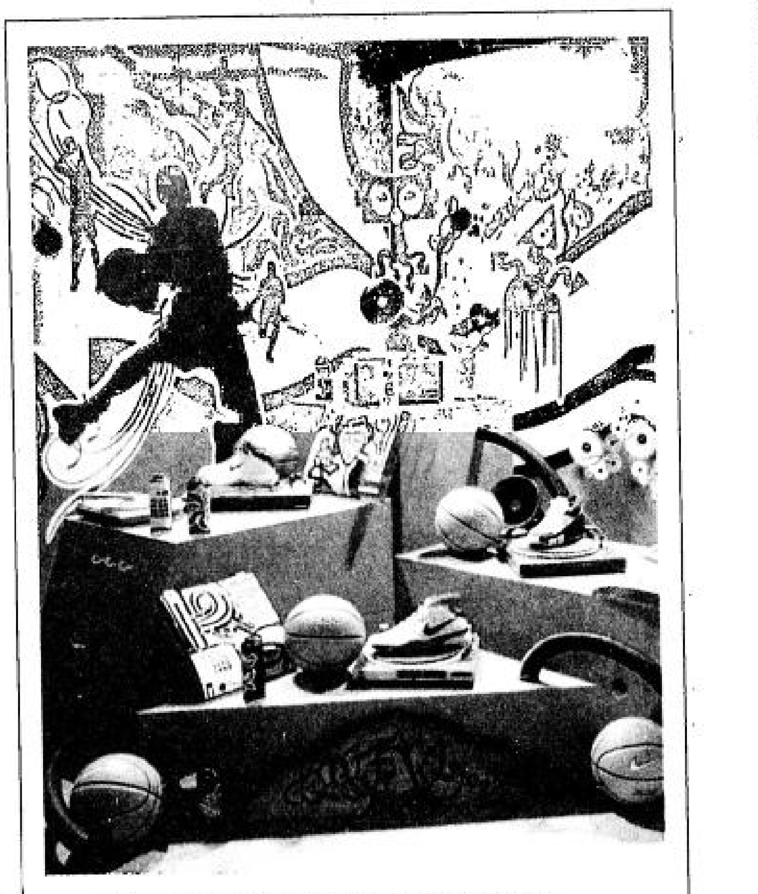
TEAM MANILA [FORCE]
Team Manila is a multidisciplinary graphic design studio based in the Philippines. Having built an impressive portfolio of award-winning works in broadcast and print design, the team seeks to collaborate with creative individuals, groups, and clients on various communication and design projects. It has worked with only the most prolific creation and design projects. It has worked with only the most prolific creative individuals in the fields of fashion, photography, events, and production. Team Manila was formed to educate the eye and taste of the public through its output and work. It is out to make a lasting mark on visual culture and to contribute to the graphic design landscape, both locally and internationally.



ELECTROLYCHEE [FLIGHT]
Electrolychee has just hatched from its own shell, and is establishing itself as a local studio that merges illustration with design. Previous to that, Marcushiro and Bru spent five years doing commercial design for other people. Both Bru and Marcushiro have earned respect from their peers and a name in the industry, so it was a very easy decision to get together and form Electrolychee. Besides exciting collaborations and occasional gallery exhibits, the design studio also has Electrolychee-branded merchandise—a studio and a lifestyle store in one.



COLLISIONTHEORY [UPTEMPO]
Collisiontheory is Aj Dimarucot and Arvin Nogueras aka "Caliph8." It is a meeting of two different backgrounds, philosophies, and design styles. Caliph8 is a hip hop enthusiast, DJ/beatsmith, and grafitti artist. Having been involved in the local hiphop and graffiti scene since 1995, he continues to celebrate the traditions of hiphop culture by merging his influences with other artforms. Aj Dimarucot is an award winning web and graphic designer who burst into the web scene in 2000 with his satirical "LabskosiErap!" (I Love Erap!) website. Aj quickly became one of the most sought after figures in the local web design community. As collisiontheory, they strive to find common ground in the world of design and art.

Three Laws of play

Photos by Daniel Tan

Tim Yap

THEY JUST DID IT. In their quest to be ahead of the game, Nike Philippines did what the other sports brands have not dared to venture into.

Tapping into the creative wells of the scene's creative new establishment, the number one sports brand has collaborated with Team Manila, Electrolychee and Collisiontheory.

From the VIP of the Super Club, Embassy guests were ushered into the main floor which became a gallery space showcasing Nike's 3 Laws—depicting a sassy way to play. I walked in and was blown away as I experienced Force, Flight and Uptempo.

Team Manila's take on Force had jeepney graphics turned into wall art. "The Force to conquer the Floor" was plastered on metal canvasses that served as quirky backdrop for the Nike Air Total Force Max shoe. Team Manila's take on "Force" exuded our beloved capital city's merry mix of color and chaos.

King of the courts

Jowee and Mon, the team behind Team, even made makeshift jeepney benches that had speakers installed underneath that duplicated the vibrating feel to make us feel like the "King of the Courts" while inside the vehicle we dub as "King of the Road."

Electrolychee made us leap higher as they harnessed the power of Flight. With an installation that had pairs of Nike Shox literally up in the air, Marcushiro and Bru, the deliciously lovable artist tandem made an illustraion based design and brought it to life via a cut-up page from their sketchbook.

Marcushiro+bru created this Electrolychee character that was part Lucha (Mexican wrestler), part Chewbacca and played up the colors of the sky to contrast with the stormy grounds, playing up the difference between the two worlds. The message to the baller, "With these shoes, you can definitely fly."

Arvin Nogueras and AJ Dimarucot, the mavericks behind Collisiontheory brought Uptempo to a new level, using vinyl records and graffiti. The renowned duo, propagator of a new kind of urban citysape, had ballers' images splattered all over the vandalized walls of their court.

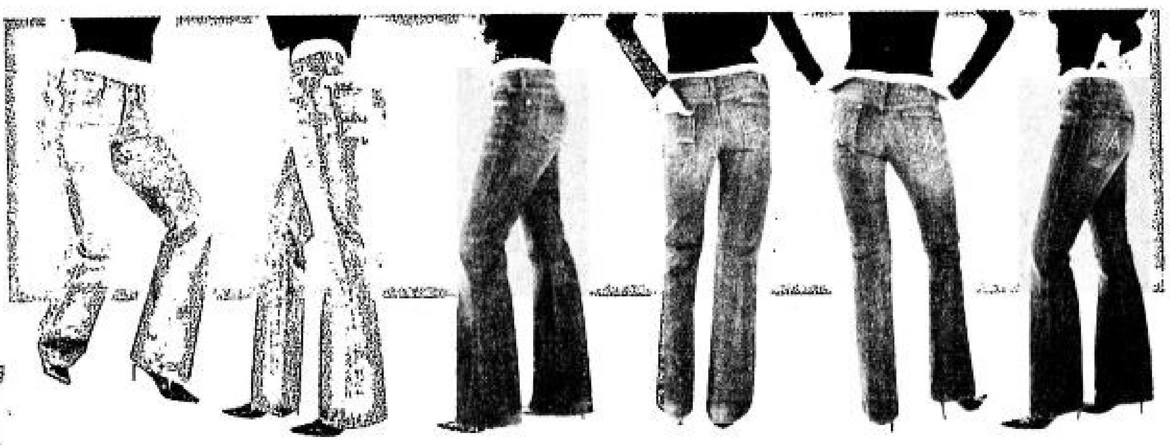
Super! collaboration

Arvin, a.k.a. DJ Caliph8, is also an accomplished music meister, so the theme was a shoo-in for the duo. They used turntable lids as canvas for their artwork and placed Nike Zoom Kobe I atop turntables that made them spin, spin, spin. With the speakers going boom, boom, boom—their Collisiontheory's Uptempo beat went full speed ahead.

This is just the beginning, folks. As we've said before, this is the start of Manila's Super! creative force taking the reins. We at Super! hope that more collaborations of this sort happen—locally and internationally. It is truly inspiring to "just do it."

They have set the rules. Now bow down and obey.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



NOTHING COMES IN BETWEEN THEM AND THEIR MIX DENIM. The scene's 'it' models: Ella Evangelista, Ria Bolivar, Caroline Baker, Phoemela Barranda and Nicolette Bell

jean pool

al twins Chip
s launched in
he vintage in-
novel washes
it.

oth

ber of 1999,
synonymous
lenim styling
quality.

former co-founder/designer of Paper Denim and Cloth, Scoth Morrison, this brand's design principle is literally translated as "product sewn in earnest." Earnest Sewn pays homage to its Americana past and mixes traditional denim work wear with the ancient Japanese style aesthetic, Wabi-Sabi.

Antik

A favorite among style-conscious men and women, antik Denim offers a complete wardrobe in addition to jeans including vintage-styled T-shirts, boots and belts.

Habitual

Habitual was founded in 2001 by husband and wife team, Michael and Nicole Colovos. Their love of design, art and denim led them to create Habitual that focuses on fit and intricate design details. It is best known for its signature Maltese cross pocket.

Joe's Jeans

Headquartered in LA, Joe's has showrooms in New York, Paris, Tokyo and London. It specializes in vintage-modern denim bottoms in the high end contemporary market.

Tudor Blanca

114 sqm. usable floor area | 4 BR · 3 T & B

THE PINES
at South Peak

Life feels much more fulfilling when you live at The Pines. This Tudor-themed community is only 10-minutes from Alabang, yet if feels like you're on an out-of-town holiday everyday with the rolling hills, the cool breeze and the breathtaking view of the Laguna Lake just outside your window.

Call us! 772-2745 · 868-5960

How to get there: Just take San Pedro exit, the second exit from Filinvest Corporate City and turn right at Magsaysay road. Go straight until you reach South Peak gate.

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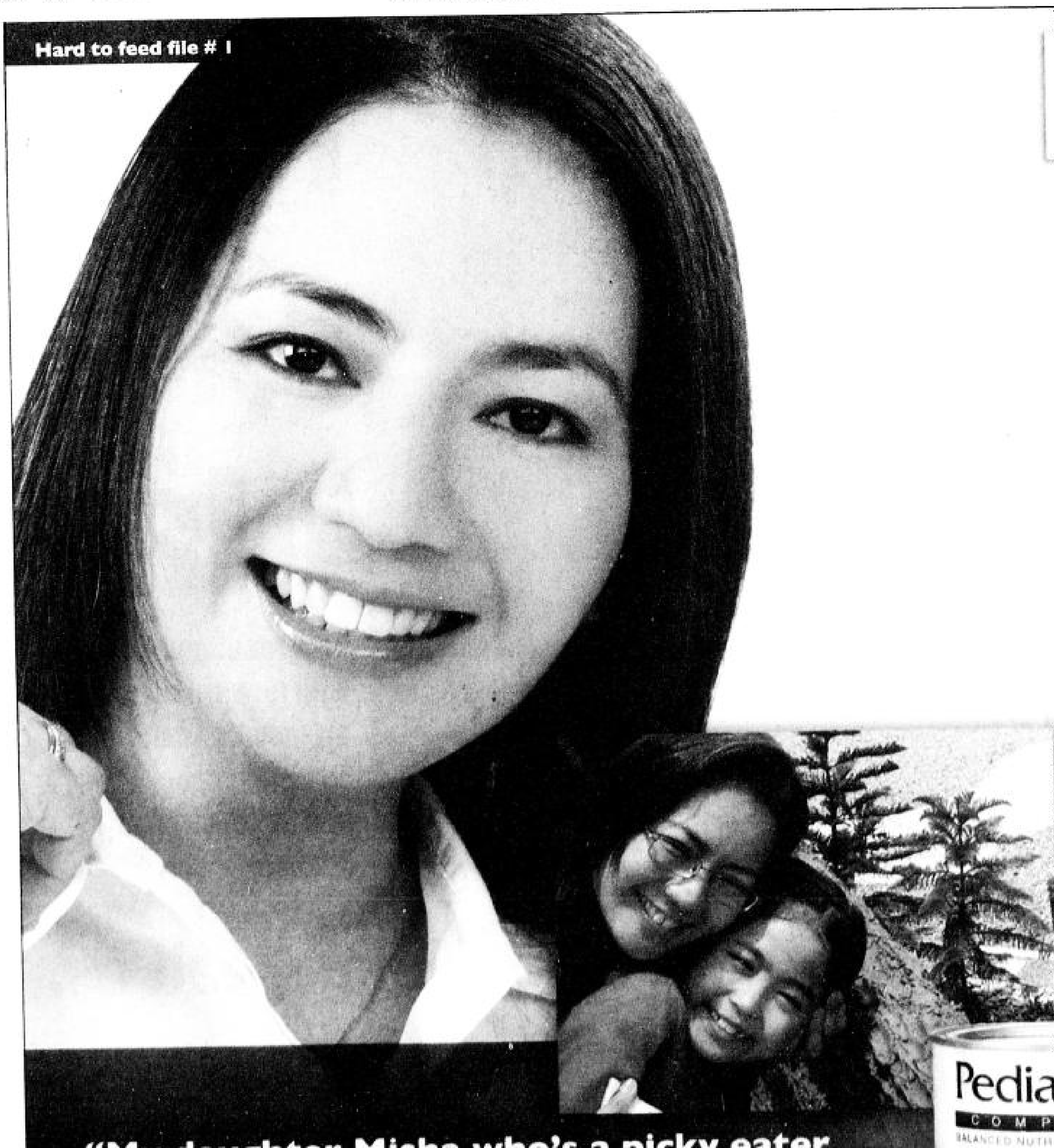
Come to our OPEN HOUSE and PLANT FESTIVAL on February 19, 2006 from 8 AM until 6 PM



Hard to feed file # 1

"My daughter Misha who's a picky eater gained weight faster with PediaSure!"

Malu Salud
Long-time PediaSure mom

When Misha turned 7, I noticed she began to look thin. For almost a year, I searched for nutritional products that would make her look healthier, even going to the extent of buying imported vitamins. Then, I heard about PediaSure. I gave her 2 glasses a day and she filled out on the first week! Kaya when it comes to Misha, I'm sure with PediaSure!

PediaSure and Picky Eaters

Willy Pardinas
Director, Pediatric Nutrition
and Product Development
Abbott International Division

"Children who are hard to feed like Misha are at risk of delayed physical growth and mental development. That's why they need effective nutritional supplementation to augment their food intake," says Willy Pardinas, Director of Pediatric Nutrition, Abbott International in Chicago.

A breakthrough in pediatric nutrition, PediaSure is complete and nutritionally-balanced milk especially formulated to meet the dietary requirements of hard-to-feed children.

PediaSure is the only milk formula clinically-proven and doctor-recommended for faster catch-up growth. It has a superior nutrient profile of 27 vitamins and minerals plus the following unique benefits so children can get all the nutrition they need at balanced levels for optimal physical and mental growth:

Highest caloric density. A concentrated 1 kcal/mL formula provides for all the energy needs of active young kids.

All children have high energy requirements in relation to body size, as they are engaged in some form of physical activity all the time. However, they tend to be picky eaters, thus the need for high levels of calories to sustain play, learning and growth.

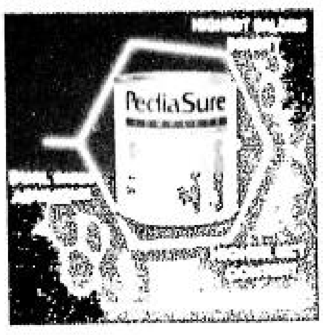
Dual carbohydrate advantage. A special blend of corn syrup solids and sucrose facilitates better absorption of carbohydrates.

Carbohydrates are needed to maintain healthy bodies and minds. It is the body's preferred source of fuel, even for processes involving the brain. A diet without adequate amounts of carbohydrates is a serious impediment in the total development of growing children.

Higher MCT (Medium Chain Triglycerides) fat content. Medium-chain fatty acids are absorbed in the bloodstream faster to help children build and maintain a healthy body mass.

The result: better height and weight gain for children and lesser number of sick days. They have more energy and vitality and are generally observed by friends and family to be in the pink of health.

PediaSure is ideal as a milk supplement for helping hard-to-feed children meet 100% of their recommended daily allowance. It is available in delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors and has a smooth texture that kids will surely like.



PediaSure
COMPLETE
BALANCED NUTRITIONAL POWDER
Vanilla

Complete and Balanced Nutrition for Picky Eaters

Abbott
A Promise for Life

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Inspiring Imagination
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A collection where craft and mystique fuse with contemporary design, and gorgeous sophistication complements simple luxury. Leather-inspired accents juxtaposed with lustrous materials. Vintage art forms touched by ethnic diversity. A necessary indulgence, a luxurious necessity.

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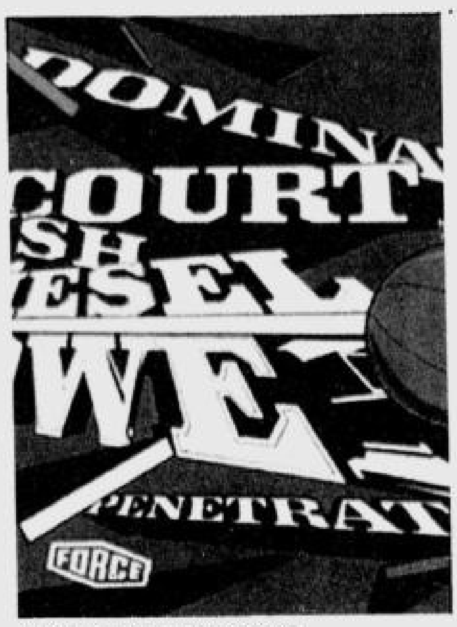
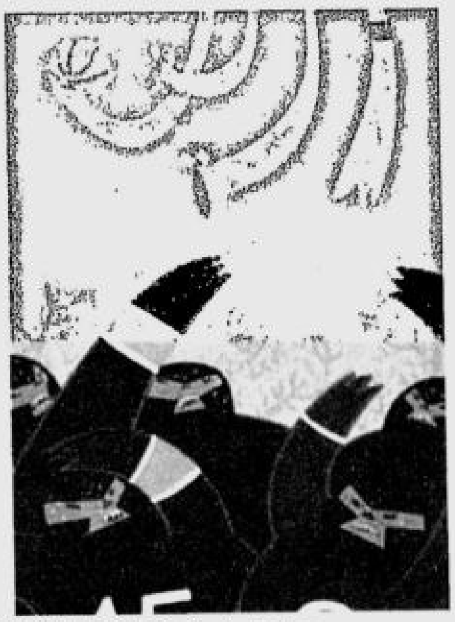
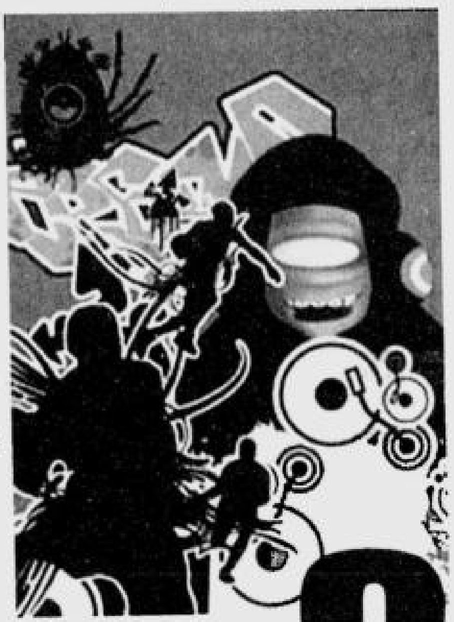


NIKE FORCE. By Team Manila



NIKE FLIGHT. By Electrolychee



NIKE UPTEMPO.
By Collisiontheory

3 Laws of play

Nike redefines the rules with forward thinking art movers Team Manila, Electrolychee and Collisiontheory

Story page C2

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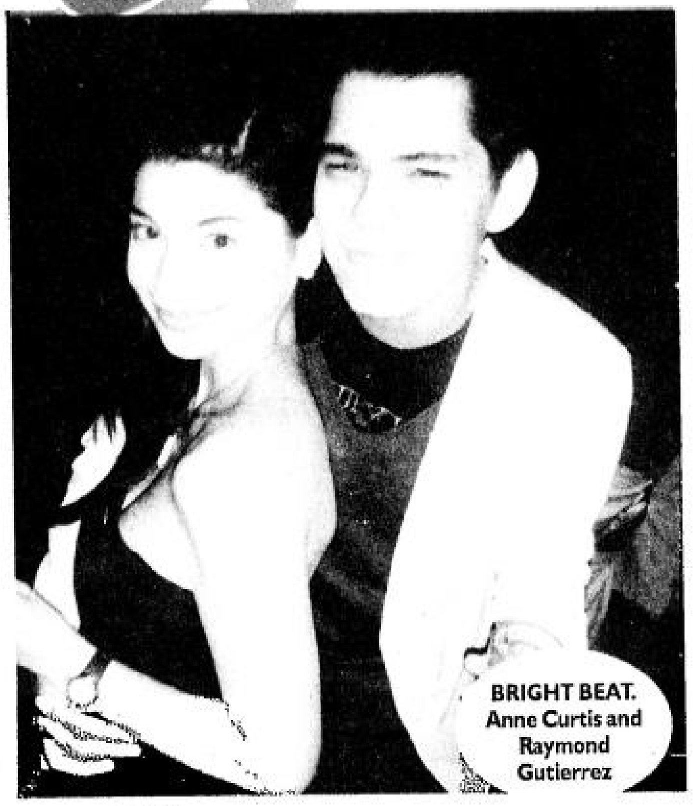


BRIGHT BEAT. Anne Curtis and Raymond Gutierrez

Independence day for Richard and Raymond

Text and photos by Tim Yap

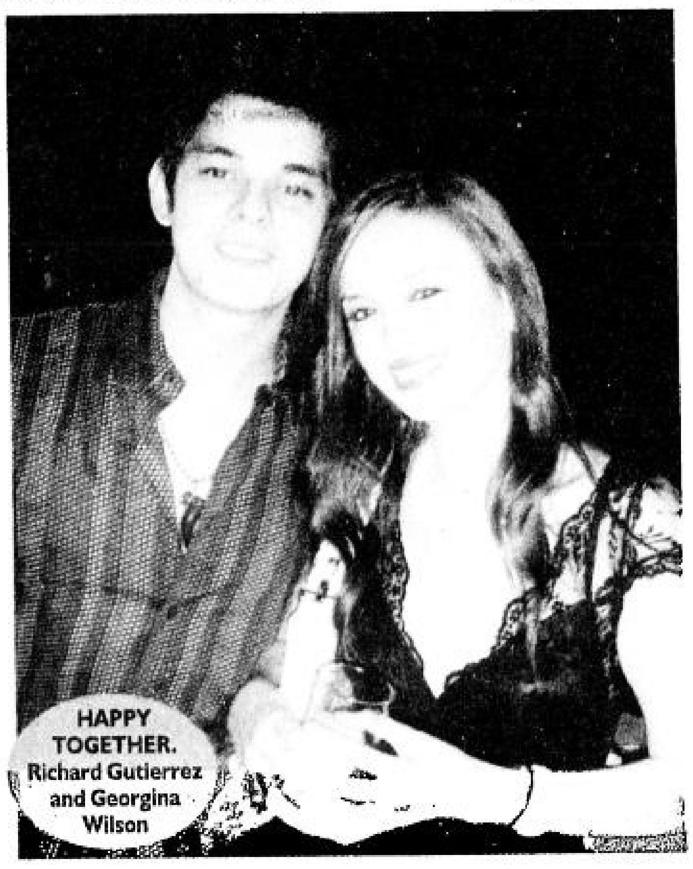
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

We've literally seen them grow up before our very eyes. From their milk chugging days to their now pop culture ubiquity, **Ruffa's** twin brothers have come to their own.

Richard is at the peak of his *teleserye* kingdom, plying from flying bird-human and evolving into the yin-yang representative of the boob tube adoring masses.

Raymond on the other hand, has his hands full with hosting chores, shifting from his Music Station duties at QTV to being master of ceremonies at the country's newest version of Star Search.

INDEPENDENCE/ D3



HAPPY TOGETHER. Richard Gutierrez and Georgina Wilson

Get mesmerized by great buys.

End of Season Sale*

Feb. 16 to 28, 2006

Rustan's

*Up to 70% off on selected items.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0256, Series of 2006.

HP TRADE-IN TRADE-UP SUPERSALE

Trade IN Trade UP with HP

up to 50% off on selected HP printers when you trade in your old printer or fax machines from February 17 to 19, 2006 at SM Megamall Cyberzone

HP OJ 4255
[illegible]

PHP8,990.00
- 17 ppm (black), 12ppm (color)
- 4800 x 1200 dpi optimized resolution HP PhotoREt 4 with optional 6-ink printing
- Integrated Handset
- Sheetfeed scanner 1200 scan resolution
- Monthly Duty Cycle 5,000 pages
- fax up to 3 sec per page at 33.6kbps
- USB connection
- 1 year warranty

Participating Megamall HP Resellers:
[illegible]

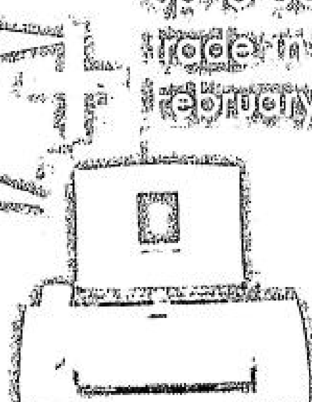
Also available at:
[illegible]

Pay only PHP6,990

Promo Mechanics
1. Fill up completely the information sheet available at the counter.
2. Bring either a printer or fax machine, any brand, working or non-working to the Trade-In Trade-Up Counter.
3. An authorized HP representative will receive the printer and will issue a coupon for you to present to the authorized TITU resellers. Please make sure that you have already identified the printer model you wish to purchase.
4. Sign on the record book to state that you have received the coupon. 5. Proceed to any authorized TITU reseller to pay for your new HP printer.

Reminders
a. This promotion can not be used in conjunction with other existing HP promotions. b. One printer per consumer only.
c. HP has the right to refuse any traded in printer if any of its integral parts are missing.

LAMCO
msi-ecs
hp

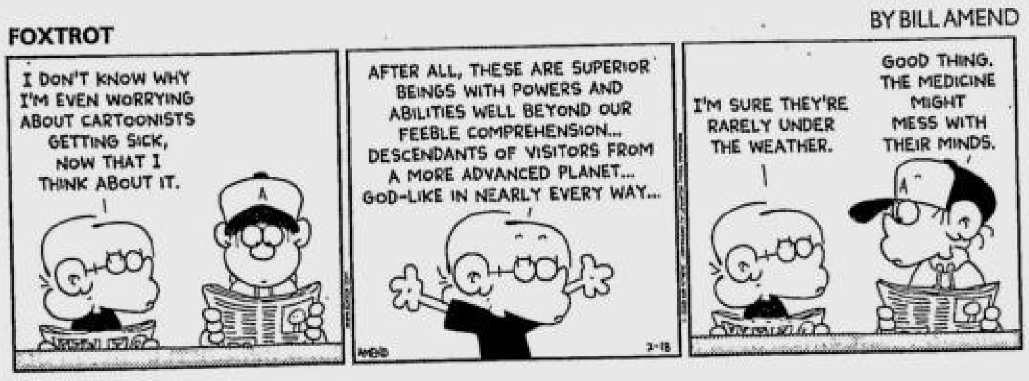


ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

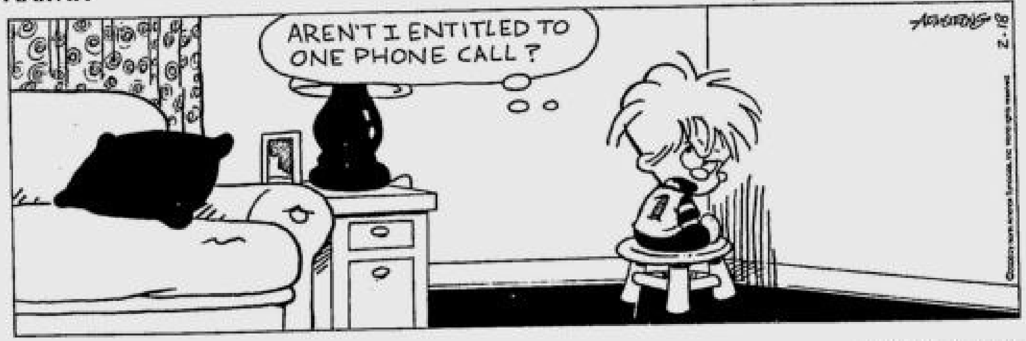
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M EVEN WORRYING ABOUT CARTOONISTS GETTING SICK, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
AFTER ALL, THESE ARE SUPERIOR BEINGS WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES WELL BEYOND OUR FEEBLE COMPREHENSION... DESCENDANTS OF VISITORS FROM A MORE ADVANCED PLANET... GOD-LIKE IN NEARLY EVERY WAY...
I'M SURE THEY'RE RARELY UNDER THE WEATHER.
GOOD THING. THE MEDICINE MIGHT MESS WITH THEIR MINDS.
2-18

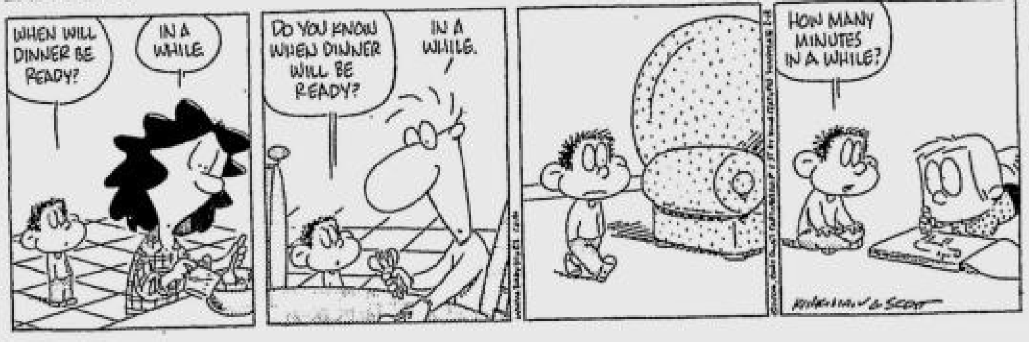
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AREN'T I ENTITLED TO ONE PHONE CALL ?
2-18

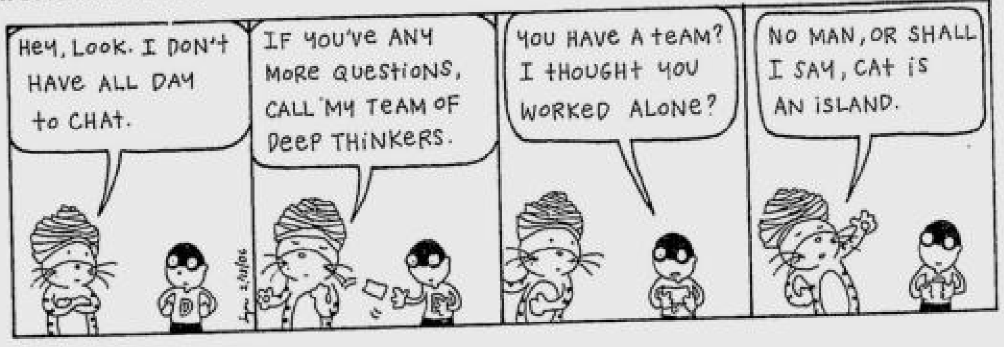
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN WILL DINNER BE READY?
IN A WHILE.
DO YOU KNOW WHEN DINNER WILL BE READY?
IN A WHILE.
HOW MANY MINUTES IN A WHILE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Look. I Don't HAVE ALL DAY to CHAT.
IF You've ANY More Questions, CALL MY TeAM OF Deep THiNKers.
You HAVE A teAM? I thought you worked ALONE?
NO MAN, OR SHALL I SAY, CAt is AN island.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent. You quickly see the big picture. Furthermore, you see connections and relationships where others do not. You are very sensitive. You pick up on the vibes of others. You're also very sympathetic. The year ahead is full of fresh, new beginnings! Have the courage to open new doors.
Birthdate of: Toni Morrison, author; John Travolta, actor; Gahan Wilson, cartoonist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): As your birthday approaches, it means your personal year is ending. That makes this the perfect time to look back over the past year and ask yourself how well you're doing at the art of living.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're heading into a very popular six weeks. Accept all invitations. Ask others out. Go ahead and join groups, clubs and organizations. Talk to people!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart. This is like a spotlight on you. Not only do people notice you, but they see you in a positive light. You easily impress VIPs and bosses in the month ahead!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Travel, publishing, higher education, medicine and the law become more important to you in the next six weeks. You want to expand your world!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next six weeks, focus on shared property and the obligations and responsibilities you have for others. (Your personal life will be quite passionate!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today the Sun moves opposite your sign. Because it's as far away from you as it will be all year, you might feel tired for the next four weeks. It also highlights partnerships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're gung-ho to get organized in every possible way. Clean, sort out, paint, throw away and reorganize your possessions at work and at home. Give yourself the tools to do the job right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Count on lots of fun ahead in the next few weeks! Romance, love affairs, the theater, professional sports, the arts and vacations are wonderfully promising now. Increased activity with children is likely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's time to focus on home, family and real estate matters for the next month. Talks with parents are important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Fasten your seat belt! The pace of your days is accelerating. Short trips, study and reading, plus increased time with siblings, keep you on the run!

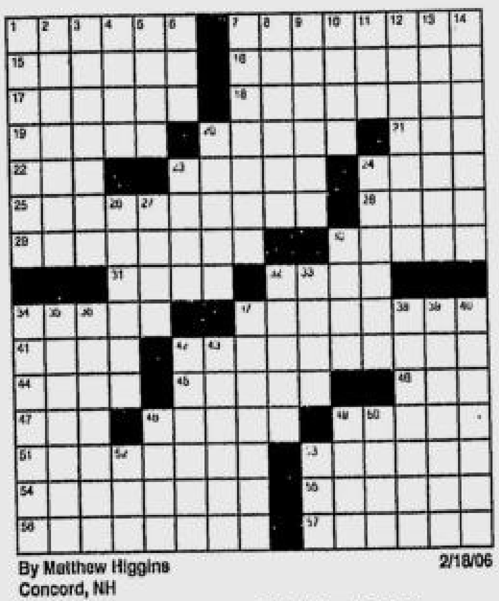
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're giving a lot of thought to money and cash flow now. Basically, you're wondering what really matters in life. You want to put your money on the right horse.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today the Sun enters your sign. It will stay here for four weeks and recharge your batteries for the rest of the year! Yay!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Assemble troops
7 Chief Justice (1795)
15 Exhaust's counterpart
16 Intangible
17 Alarmed
18 Worth citing
19 Links vehicles
20 "Comin' thro' the Rye" author
21 Substandard newspaper
22 Plus
23 Nothing __!
24 Unleavened bread
25 Condescending state
28 Tack room gear
29 Eardrum
30 Skim, as soup
31 Those in favor of
32 The same, at Notre Dame
34 BLT ingredient
37 Inspects
41 12/24 and 12/31
42 Number needed to make up a whole
44 Fuller's geodesic structure
45 Yahoos
46 Downed a sub
47 Pol. party
48 Fiber-yielding agave
49 Less covered
51 One-time impenetrable stones
53 Bearlike
54 Mixtures
55 Taken care of
56 Prudishly proper quality
57 Maxims

DOWN
1 Select unsuitable actors
2 Weird
3 Hollywood success
4 Piquant
5 Just manages (to)
6 Roulette bet
7 Service for the dead
8 Complete reversals
9 Simple sandals
10 Why don't we
11 Period of time
12 Interrogate after a mission
13 Ancient region in Asia Minor
14 Luxurious
20 Extra unexpected advantage
23 Bedrock pet
24 Early round, briefly
26 Set in contrast to
27 Mountain lake
30 Knight's lady
32 Drive out
33 Guys' sweeties
34 Retired reader's illumination
35 Shunner
36 Harpsichords
37 Ambassador's headquarters
38 Getting close
39 __ Cordiale
40 Sound systems
42 Cower
43 Dismissal
48 Carried a tune
49 Spawned
50 On the waves
52 Periodical, briefly
53 Made in the __



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

2/18/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	L	E	S	■	H	A	L	T	■	E	C	H	O
A	G	I	L	E	■	U	T	A	H	■	C	L	A	M
R	O	S	I	E	■	F	A	M	E	■	O	O	Z	E
C	R	A	C	K	O	F	D	A	W	N	■	S	E	N
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	■	S	H	O	V	E	L	S
F	A	C	T	O	I	D	S	■	O	L	I	O	■	■
O	C	A	S	■	E	R	L	E	■	T	A	F	F	Y
N	H	L	■	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	■	D	O	O
D	E	L	T	A	■	A	N	N	A	■	G	A	W	K
■	■	O	U	S	T	■	G	A	R	G	O	Y	L	E
F	I	F	T	I	E	S	■	■	P	U	N	■	■	■
A	N	D	■	C	L	O	U	D	O	F	D	U	S	T
Z	E	U	S	■	L	A	K	E	■	F	O	R	C	E
E	R	T	E	■	E	V	E	N	■	A	L	I	A	S
S	T	Y	X	■	R	E	S	T	■	W	A	S	N	T

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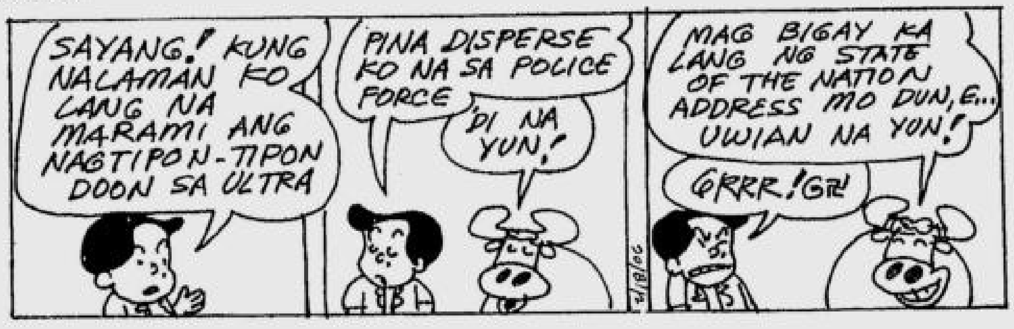
2/18/06

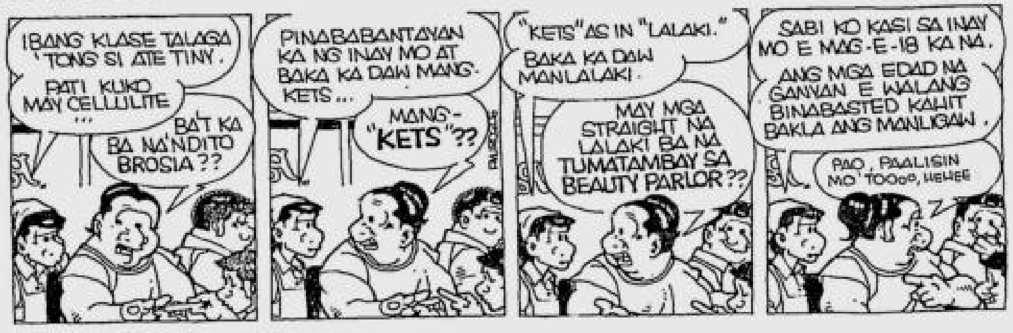
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAYANG! KUNG NALAMAN KO LANG NA MARAMI ANG NAGTIPON-TIPON DOON SA ULTRA
PINA DISPERSE KO NA SA POLICE FORCE
'DI NA YUN!
MAG BIGAY KA LANG NG STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS MO DUN, E... UWIAN NA YON!
GRRR! GR!

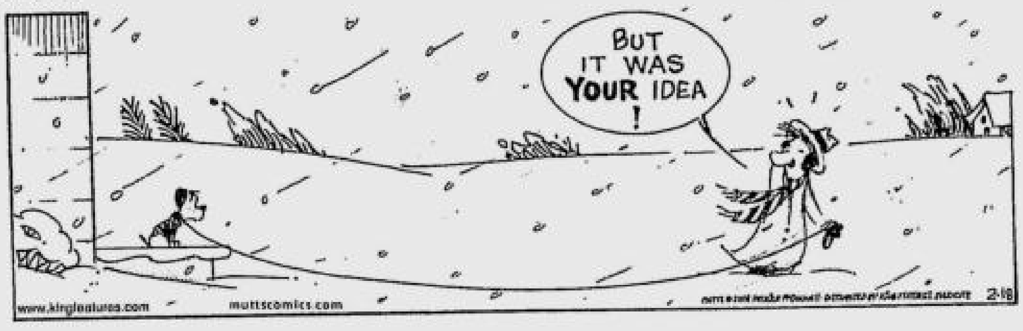
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IBANG KLASE TALAGA 'TONG SI ATE TINY.
PATI KUKO MAY CELLULITE ...
BA'T KA BA NA'NDITO BROSIA??
PINABABANTAYAN KA NG INAY MO AT BAKA KA DAW MANG-KETS...
MANG-"KETS"??
"KETS" AS IN "LALAKI."
BAKA KA DAW MANLALAKI.
MAY MGA STRAIGHT NA LALAKI BA NA TUMATAMBAY SA BEAUTY PARLOR??
SABI KO KASI SA INAY MO E MAG-E-18 KA NA.
ANG MGA EDAD NA GANYAN E WALANG BINABASTED KAHIT BAKLA ANG MANLIGAW.
PAO, PAALISIN MO' TOOoo, HEHEE

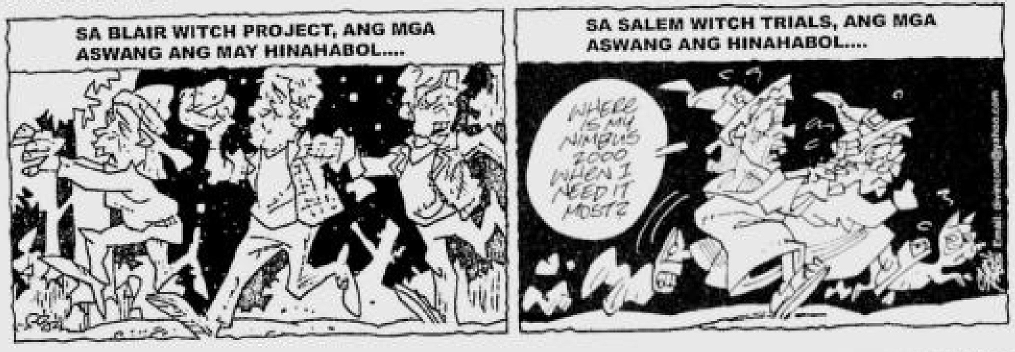
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BUT IT WAS YOUR IDEA !
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
2-18

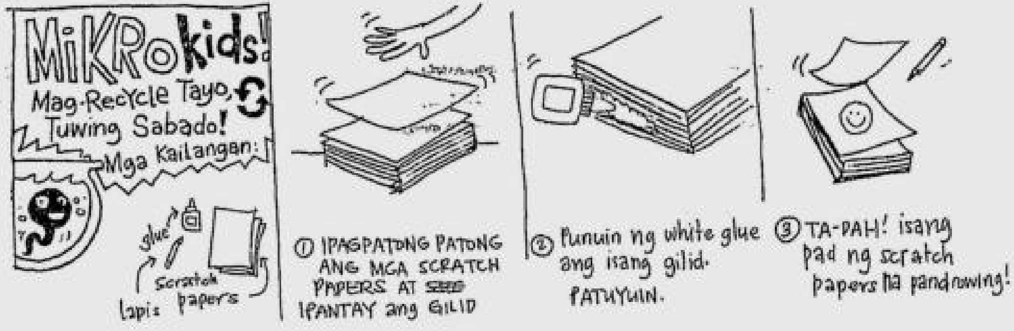
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SA BLAIR WITCH PROJECT, ANG MGA ASWANG ANG MAY HINAHABOL....
SA SALEM WITCH TRIALS, ANG MGA ASWANG ANG HINAHABOL....
WHERE IS MY NIMBUS 2000 WHEN I NEED IT MOST?

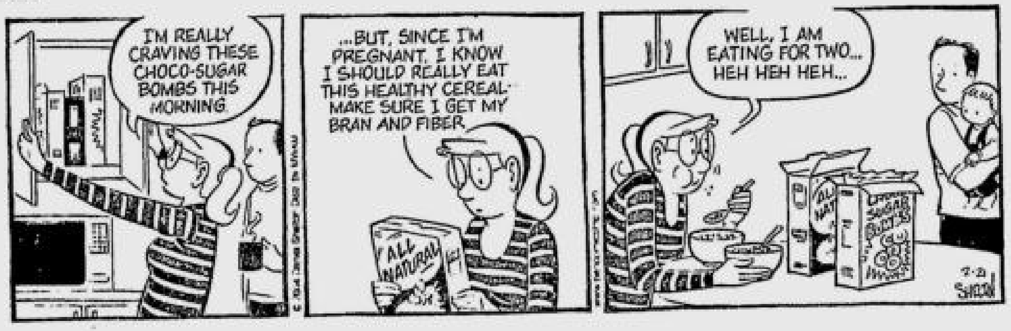
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
glue
scratch papers
lapis
① IPAGPATONG PATONG ANG MGA SCRATCH PAPERS AT IPANTAY ang GILID
② Punuin ng white glue ang isang gilid. PATUYUIN.
③ TA-DAH! isang pad ng scratch papers na pandrowing!

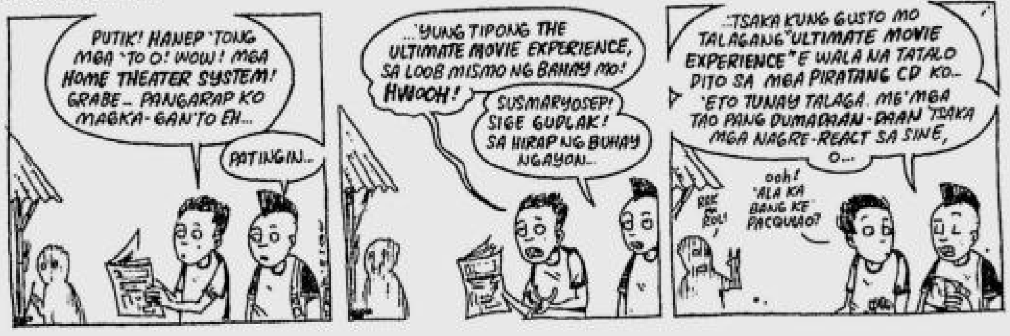
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M REALLY CRAVING THESE CHOCO-SUGAR BOMBS THIS MORNING.
...BUT, SINCE I'M PREGNANT, I KNOW I SHOULD REALLY EAT THIS HEALTHY CEREAL. MAKE SURE I GET MY BRAN AND FIBER.
ALL NATURAL
WELL, I AM EATING FOR TWO... HEH HEH HEH...
2-21
SHELTON

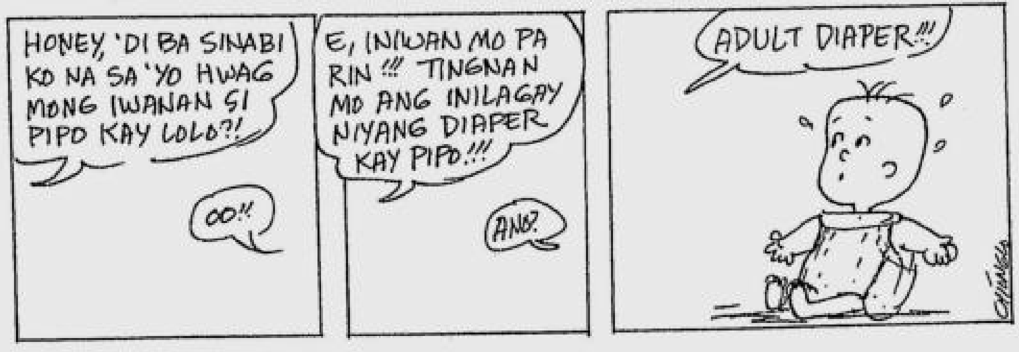
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK! HANEP 'TONG MGA 'TO O! WOW! MGA HOME THEATER SYSTEM! GRABE... PANGARAP KO MAGKA-GAN'TO EH...
PATINGIN...
...'YUNG TIPONG THE ULTIMATE MOVIE EXPERIENCE, SA LOOB MISMO NG BAHAY MO! HWOOH!
SUSMARYOSEP! SIGE GUDLAK! SA HIRAP NG BUHAY NGAYON...
...TSAKA KUNG GUSTO MO TALAGANG "ULTIMATE MOVIE EXPERIENCE" E WALA NA TATALO DITO SA MGA PIRATANG CD KO... 'ETO TUNAY TALAGA. ME' MGA TAO PANG DUMADAAN-DAAN TSAKA MGA NAGRE-REACT SA SINE, O...
ooh! 'ALA KA BANG KE PACQUIAO?

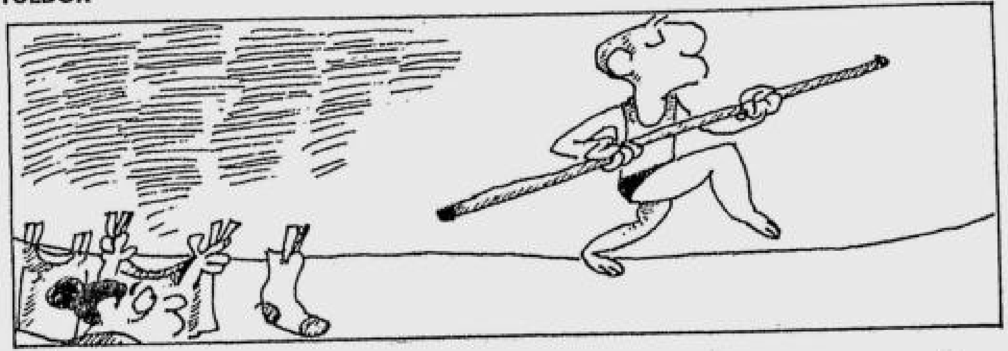
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HONEY, 'DI BA SINABI KO NA SA 'YO HWAG MONG IWANAN SI PIPO KAY LOLO?!
OO!!
E, INIWAN MO PA RIN!!! TINGNAN MO ANG INILAGAY NIYANG DIAPER KAY PIPO!!!
ANO?
ADULT DIAPER!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

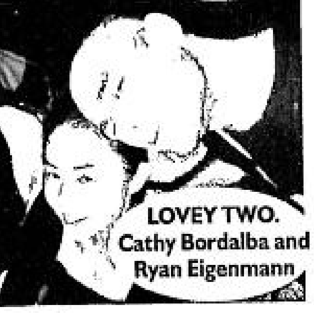
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



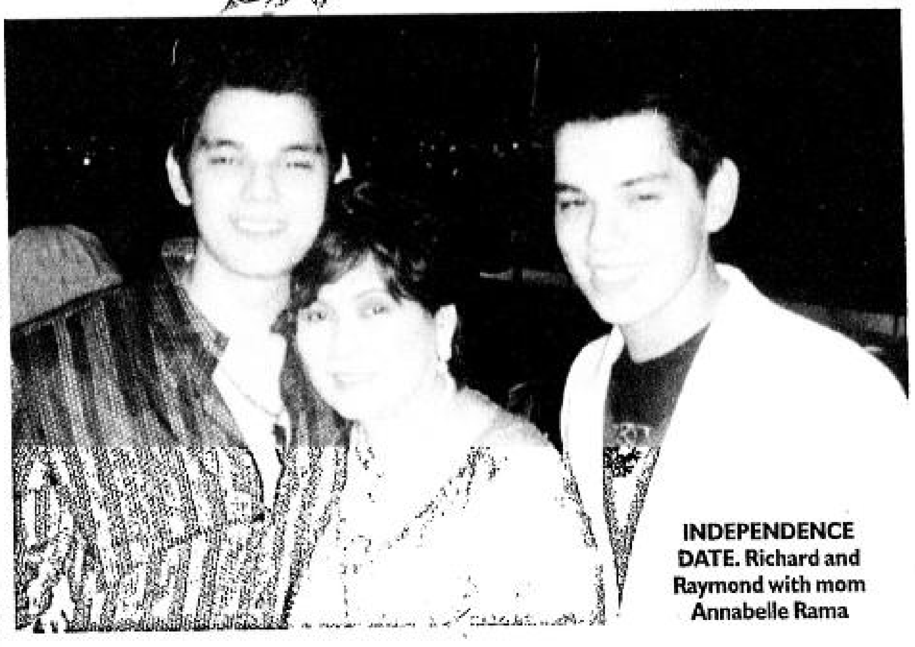
EVER AFTER. Bianca King and Ogie Alcasid

FUTURE PROSPECTS. Rufa Mae Quinto and Ara Mina

COMING SOON. Iza Calzado and Direk Mark Reyes



LOVEY TWO. Cathy Bordalba and Ryan Eigenmann



INDEPENDENCE DATE. Richard and Raymond with mom Annabelle Rama

THREE PLAY. Sheeva Zareechian, Danica Sotto and CJ Jesena

HAPPY 18! Ben Chan, Liz Uy and Miguel Pastor

Independence day for Richard and Raymond

From page D1

The two recently turned 22. At the poolside of Richard's new condo unit, blue and white balloons adorned the halls where friends and family of the twins had gathered. **Ogie Alcasid** and **Ara Mina** began an impromptu serenade to toast to the twin celebration, while youngest bro **RP (Richie Paul)** gave us a sample of his Pinoy music rhythm. His rapping style reverberated along the party, making guests groove to his beat. Another Gutierrez to watch out for!

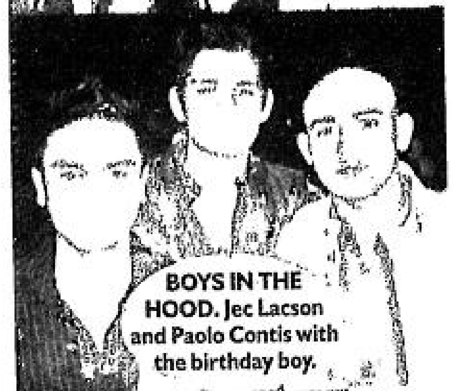
"We're both living on our own," they chorus. "At the most we get to see each other only three times a week, because of our busy schedules," said Raymond. Does their mom stay with them? "No," they both chorus again. I guess twins will always be twins.

"The hard part is when you run out of toiletries. I ran out of toilet paper the other day. And that's when you realize that the little things do count," observed Raymond of their new state of independence.

"But despite all the hardship of living alone, I would really recommend it to other young people," advised Richard.

Looks like these boys are totally enjoying their lives. It's freedom well deserved.

VERSE FAMILY. Jon, Vicky and Rosario Herrera with Lorenzo Manalang of L Time Studio



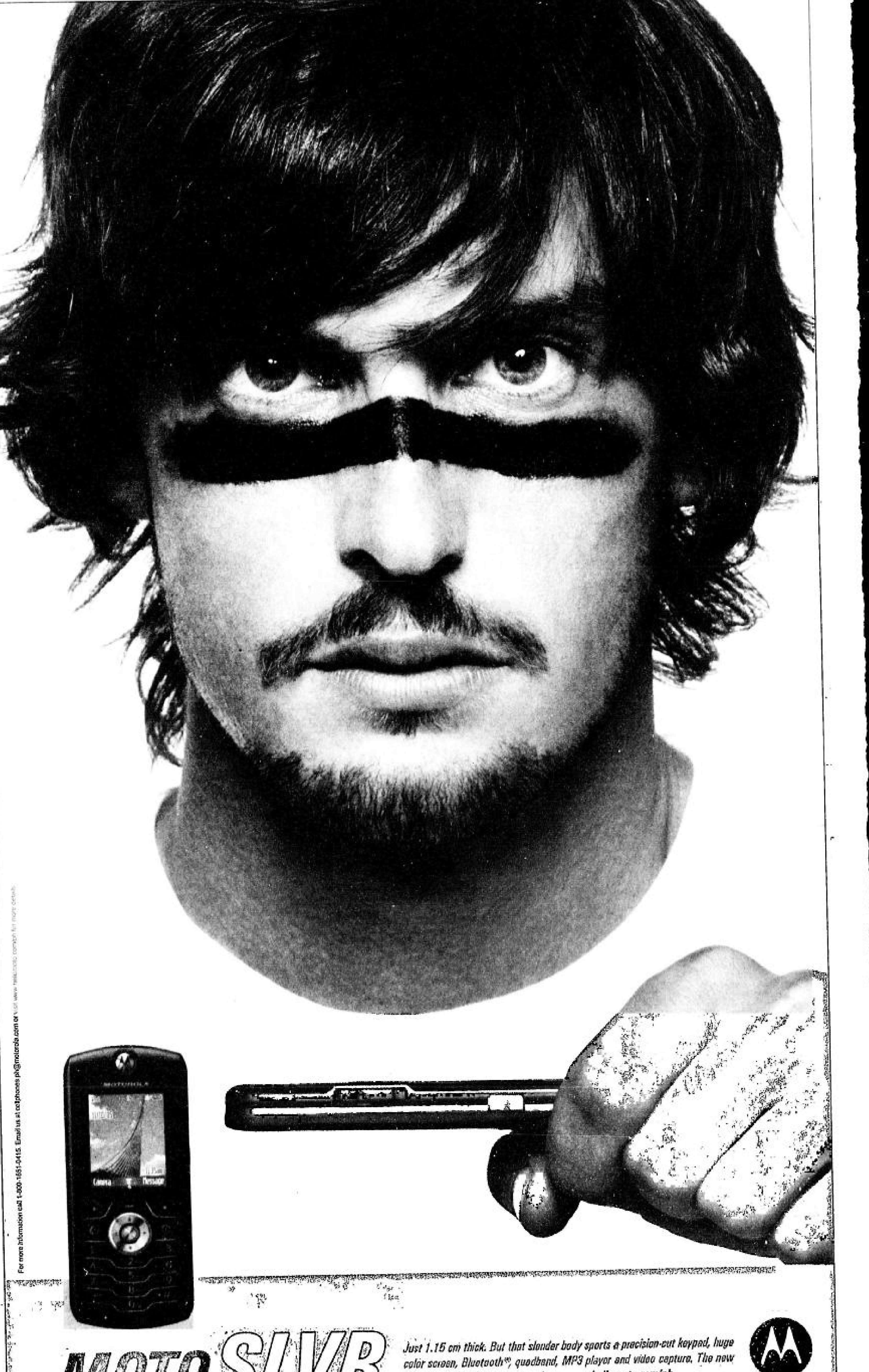
BOYS IN THE HOOD. Jec Lacson and Paolo Contis with the birthday boy.

BIG BRO. Keren Pascual, Zanjoe Marrudo and Nicole Anderson

BEAUTY BETS. Aeesha Rand, Shirley Kwan

JES Wilson and Isabel Diaz

SIB BONDING. Richard with brothers Monching and Tonton



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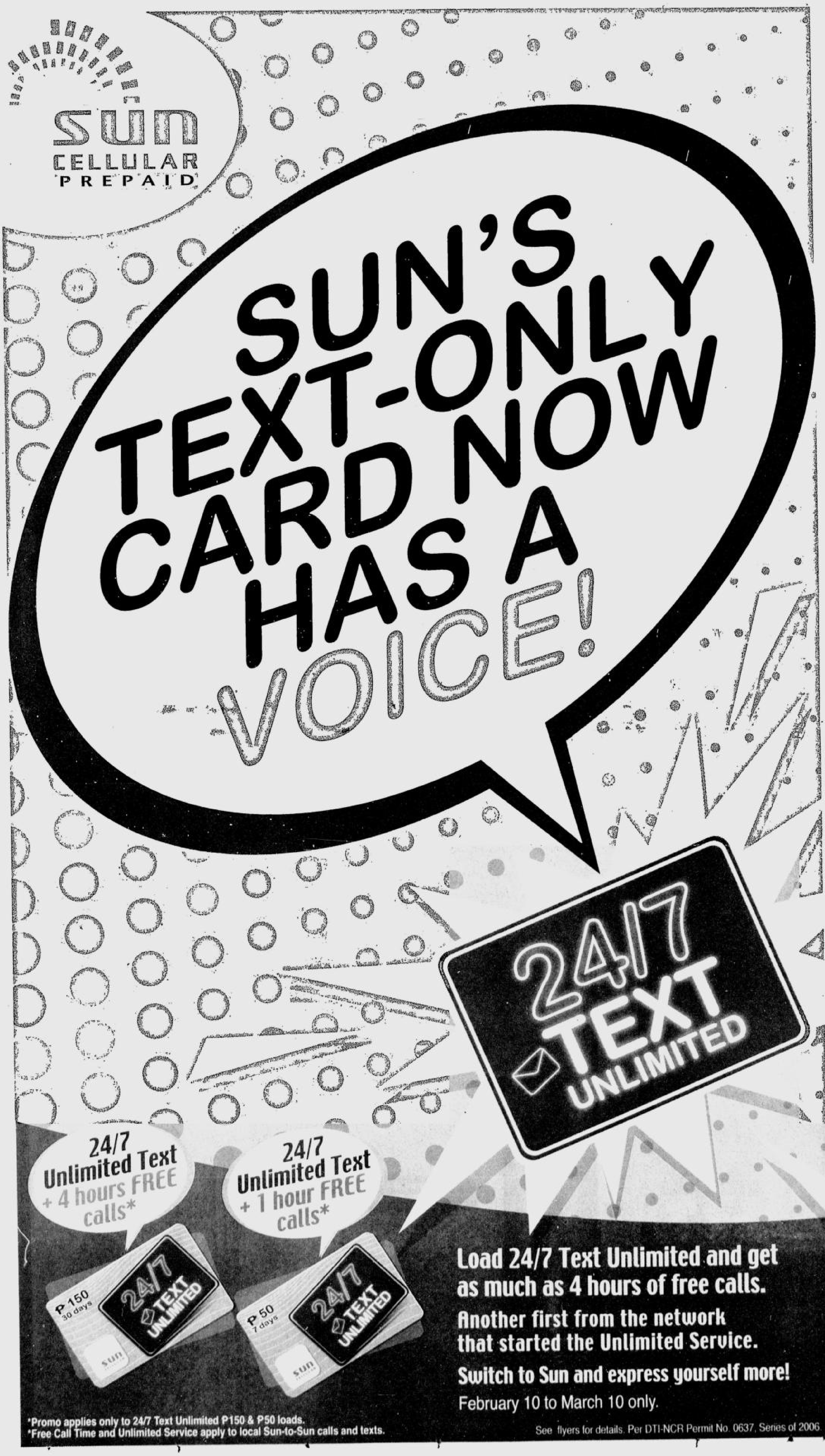
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POST CARD PERFECT. The revelers by the Nami shore.

PHOTOS BY MARK NICDAO

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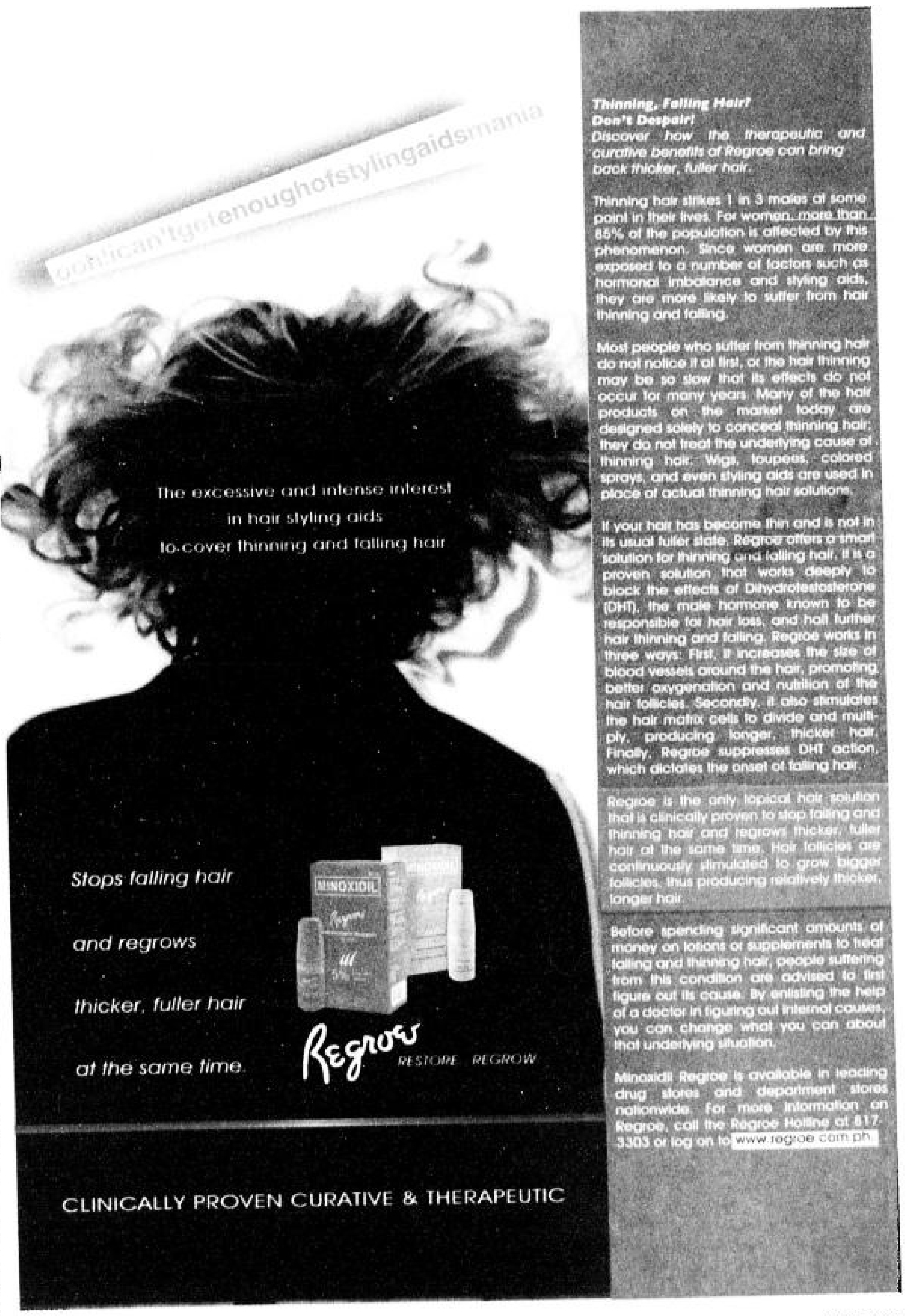

ooh!ican'tgetenoughofstylingaidsmania

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Most people who suffer from thinning hair do not notice it at first, or the hair thinning may be so slow that its effects do not occur for many years. Many of the hair products on the market today are designed solely to conceal thinning hair; they do not treat the underlying cause of thinning hair. Wigs, toupees, colored sprays, and even styling aids are used in place of actual thinning hair solutions.

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Regroe is the only topical hair solution that is clinically proven to stop falling and thinning hair and regrows thicker, fuller hair at the same time. Hair follicles are continuously stimulated to grow bigger follicles, thus producing relatively thicker, longer hair.

Before spending significant amounts of money on lotions or supplements to treat falling and thinning hair, people suffering from this condition are advised to first figure out its cause. By enlisting the help of a doctor in figuring out internal causes, you can change what you can about that underlying situation.

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COOL HOTTIE. Ciara Sevilla

FIERY DRAGON. Tessa Dragon.

ISLAND ATTRACTION. Freida Dario

MTVixen. Anne Matoto

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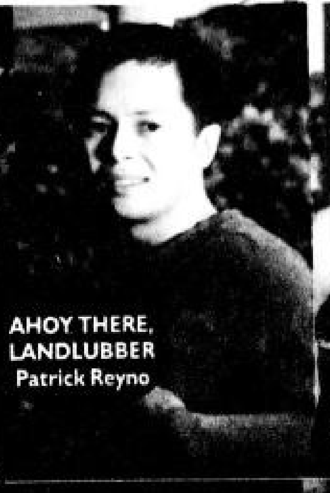
DO YOU LOVE Bryan boy?

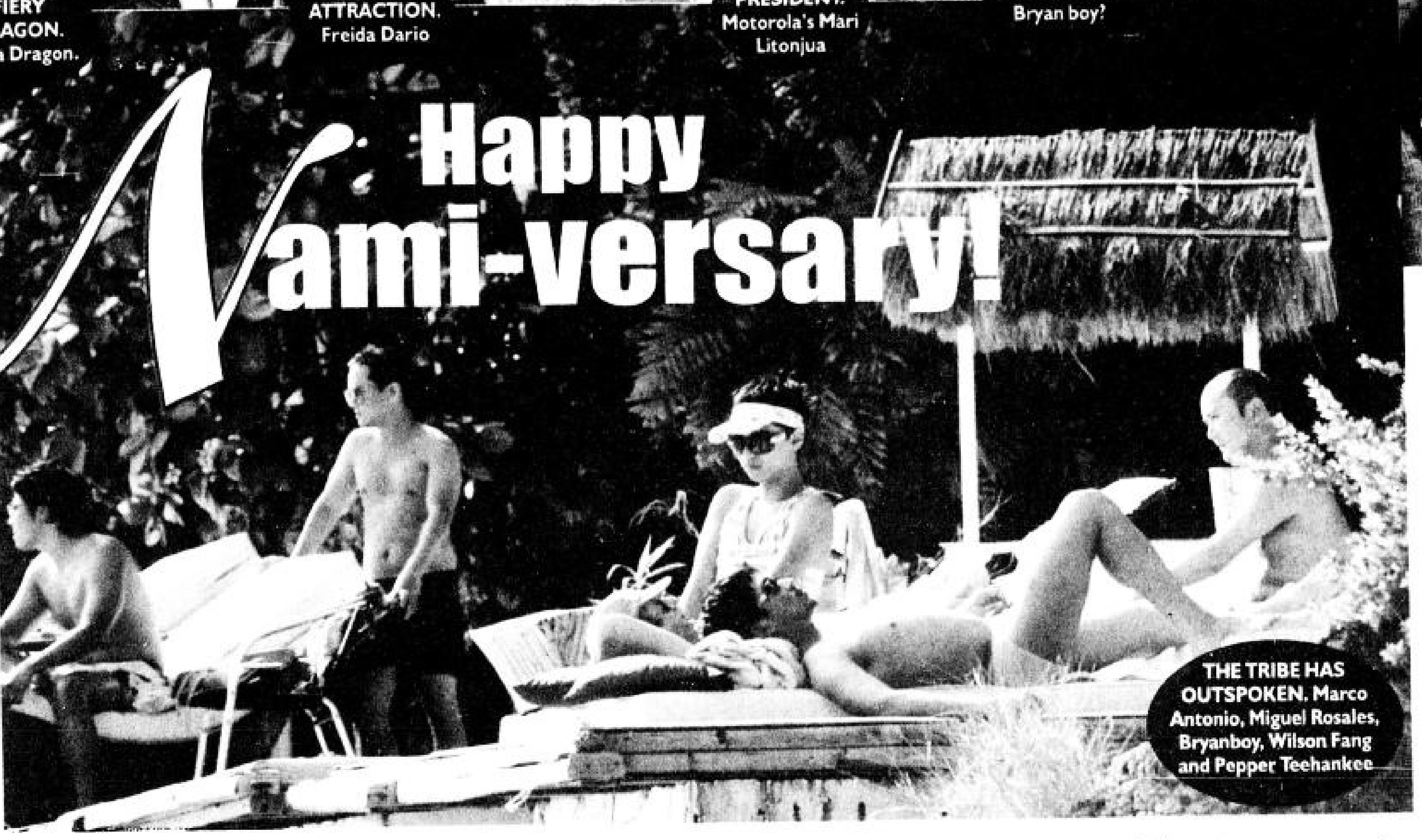


AHOY THERE, LANDLUBBER Patrick Reyno

GRR
talag
Rodr

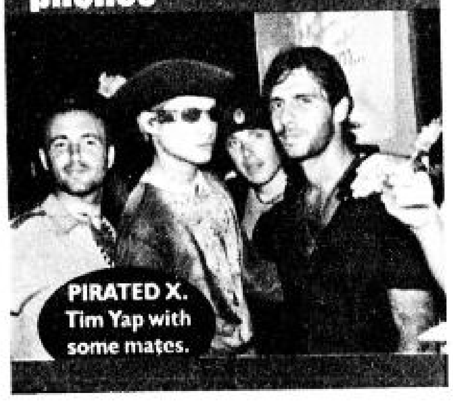
KNOTTY AND NICE. Tina Tinio

Happy Nami-versary!



THE TRIBE HAS OUTSPOKEN. Marco Antonio, Miguel Rosales, Bryanboy, Wilson Fang and Pepper Teehankee

Nami Boracay plus birthday party plus Motorola equals sun, sea and shiny cell phones



PIRATED X. Tim Yap with some mates.

By Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz
Photos by Mark Nidcdao

THE WRITER'S BLOC. Lex Ledesma, Gino de la Paz, Tim Yap, Tals Diaz and Martin Valdes

SAY YOU WERE MYSTERIOUSLY shipwrecked on an island. On this island, there were others there stranded like you, a ragtag bunch of characters who for some reason did not at all resemble your typical bedraggled castaways with bad hair months, leathery faces and coconut husks for bikinis.

In fact, you're getting a sneaky suspicion that they've all cozied up a little too well in this sandy causeway on the sea. What gave them away? Could it possibly have been the perfectly tilted champagne glass in one tanned hand, and a sleek new Motorola cell phone in the other?

This sure wasn't the set of "Lost" or "Gilligan's Island" or "Temptation Island" or even Splash Island. You could say that it was a little bit of everything, to compose a fantastical plotline for a visual opus dubbed "Pleasure Island." Welcome to Nami-Moto Year 4, a.k.a. the weekend of sun, sea and cell phones. (Or the weekend when everyone had a witty new "Moto!" motto every five minutes or so. But we're getting ahead of our story.)

Avoiding an "Aaliyah"

There were several ways to get to the sapphire sea at Diniwid Beach in "The Boracay." The best, however, answered to the words "fast," "smooth," and "alive," i.e. the SEAir Dornier DO-328 turboliner, which flew to Caticlan in a total of 35 painless—and, dare we say, nearly smokeless-minutes.

Shortly after touching down, our castaways (some with leather trunks—very retro, very "King Kong") all walked the plank, sank their feet into the world-famous blinding white sand, and sped up the elevator to the favorite haven of hedonists, Nami.

Ordinaire to extraordinaire

What started out years before as a way for a group of fun-loving friends to "outlive, outlast and outfit" each other has become way-*way!*-bigger. A little tongue-in-cheek grandiosity is good for the soul once in a while, so for Year 4, the entire resort was shut down. And trashed. Well, so to speak.

Now more streamlined courtesy of architect Denise de Castro, Nami was the perfect setting for this convention of wayward souls. The two-person whirlpool hot tubs on the verandas? The vastly expanded deck? The Smart Infinity Lounge? The new spa? The Manami Boutique? A never-ending string of questions? Sorry, we tripped on our peg legs. But to paraphrase a buccaneer buddy, "We likes it."

Another thing they "likes" was the chow. Nami Executive Chef Carla Gabor's menu features both new treats and old favorites. From insanely yummy salpicao and mushroom tarts to spanakopita, honey bourbon chicken, and Tom Yum soup, being stranded has never been so deliciously calorific. And as if a daily champagne brunch wasn't enough, a 24-hour buffet also guaranteed that the castaways never had a moment with an empty tummy.

Of course, Nami wouldn't be Nami without the *namis*. Right. Let us explain. A nami is a personal butler assigned to each guest. As always, they were on call to do everything—reconfirming flight arrangements, preparing bubble baths, loading songs into iPods, acting like iPods, smiling, standing, talking, walking, so on and so forth. If on land, intoxicated humans have their designated drivers, by the sea that weekend, they had their designated senses of self-respect. The namis generally carried on as if nothing (by "nothing" we mean "puddles of puke and/or pee") happened. Or not. Wink.

The booty

No, not that *booty*. Being marooned on an "isolated" island only meant survival, and in this case "survival" translated to "excess."

The maximalist merrymakers armed themselves with their favorite things: a gym bag, mug, and towel from the Motorola gods; grooming goodies from Shu Uemura, Kerastase, and Ralph Lauren Fragrances; a planner from Smart Infinity (to remind them of those crucial massage appointments, we assume); and a Havaianas flipflop bag. What? No Birch Tree Milk Powder? Kidding.

To remind them that they were there to set their inner animals free (within reason), each party pirate was handed a personalized Motopet—that's "Motorola" and "pet" in case we lost you with our fancy wordplay. The women, furthermore, received an extra treat, one-of-a-kind bracelets by Jeux Accessories by Claire Betita-Samson & Michelle Bunag.

It was like the Oscar loot bag, but Pinoy, so that makes it the Famas loot bag... whatever. The ultimate treasure was yet to be discovered.

Party pirates of "The Bora"

The theme of the first night's fiesta was Shipwrecked Glam. Ok, so most guests only heeded the "wrecked" part which explains the tubs full of alcohol consumed. Ahoy, it was all good.

The birthday brigands who paid attention, all two of them, came in attire inspired by the classic TV show "Gilligan's Island." (We never watched TV before 1991 so we had no clue. Teehee.) Amidst the blitz of Veuve Clicquot, 40 brand-new, top-of-the-line Motorola phones were given to all those present. Plunder came in the form of the RAZR and RAZR V3i, ROKR, SLVR, and PEBL, each engraved with the recipient's name. Insert "oohs" and "aahs" here.

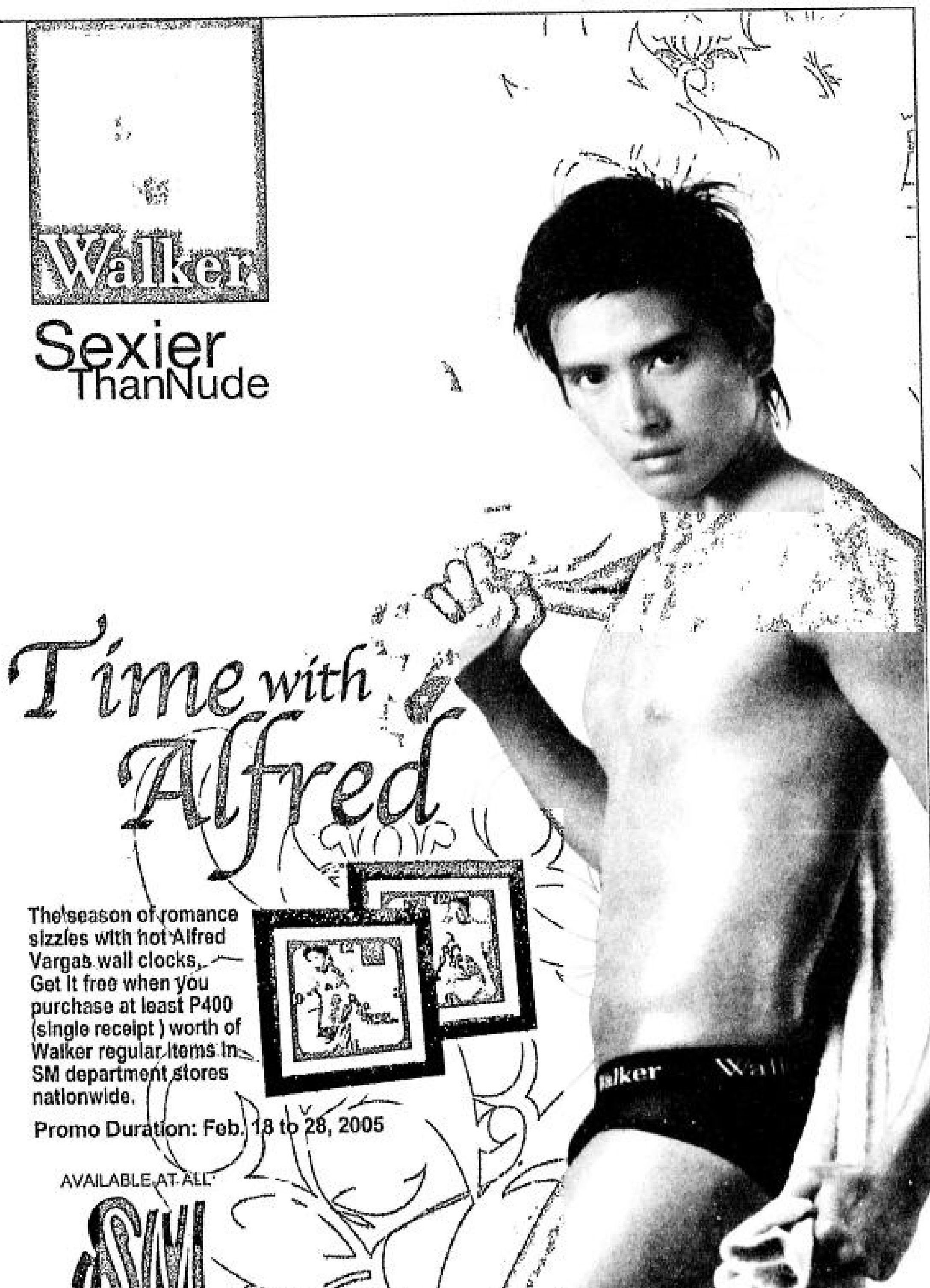
With a combined age of 345—someone jacked up the average age and we all know who it was—the high and dry were treated to spa treatments and rides around the island on the Sasha Sailing Club fleet of paraws.

On the last night, Sunday, the weekend came to a close with a King and I-inspired dinner. All guests came in Thai-inspired clothing, while dining on exquisite Thai delicacies that made everyone feel like royalty.

Staying at Nami is like a good dose of Zoloft; it's nearly impossible to be gloomy there even if, say, you were stranded. That's all for now, maties!

Nami-Moto Year 4 was made possible by Nami Resorts, Motorola, Smart Infinity and SEAir. Supported by Shu Uemura, Kerastase, Veuve Clicquot , Ralph Cool, Polo Blue, Acqua di Gio, Havaianas, Tanqueray, Sasha Sailing Club and Bells & Blooms by Izy Jingco for the flowers and venue set-up.

For more information on Nami Resorts check www.namiresorts.com or call the Manila Reservation Office at (02) 812-1484, 892-0371, or fax (02) 812-0668. You may also contact the resort at (036) 288-6753-55.



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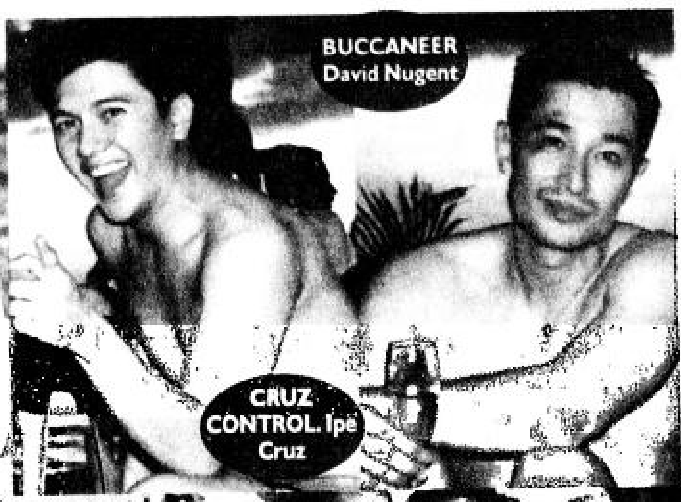


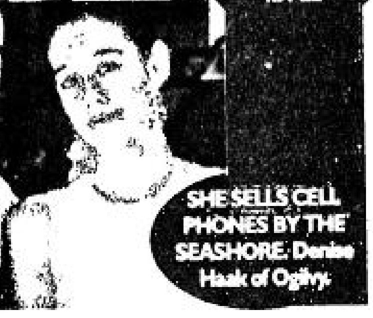
BUCCANEER David Nugent

CRUZ CONTROL. Ipe Cruz

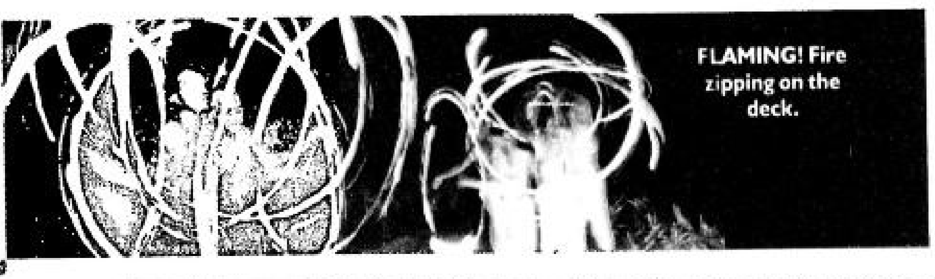
SKIPPER STYLE. Gino de la Paz

COOLTURATTI. Migs Rosales

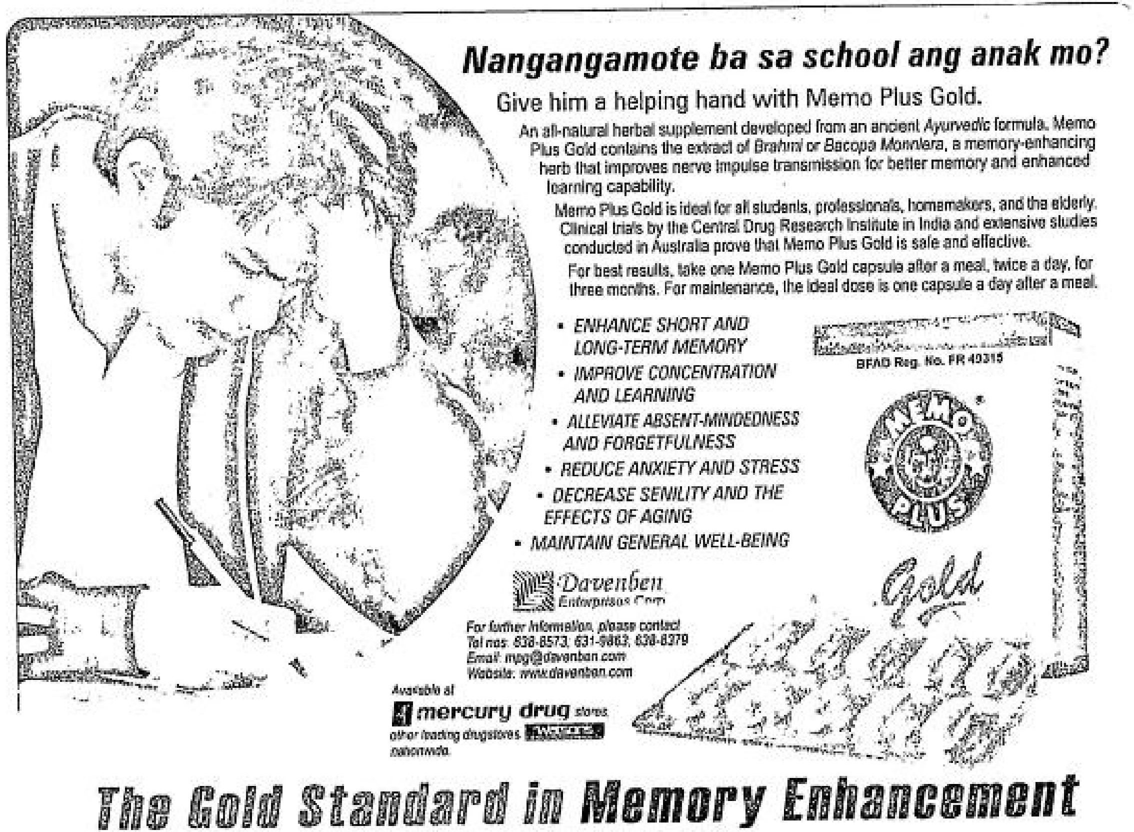
FIRST MATES. Jacques Dupasquier and Jackie Inoferio



SHE SELLS CELL PHONES BY THE SEASHORE. Denise Haak of Ogilvy.



FLAMING! Fire zipping on the deck.



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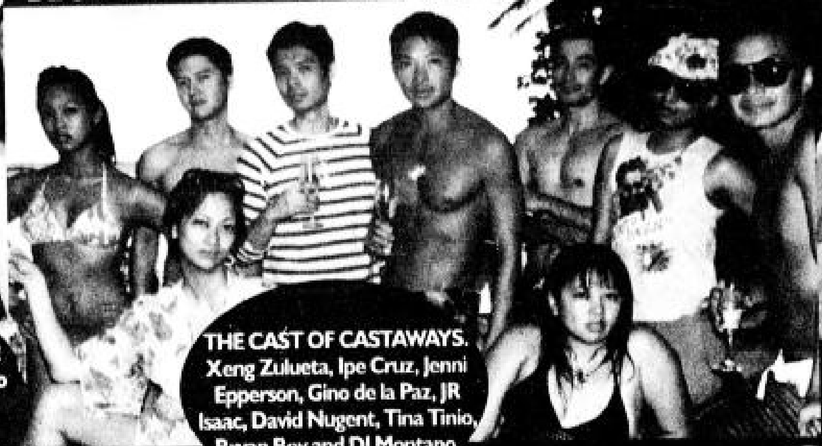
From page E3

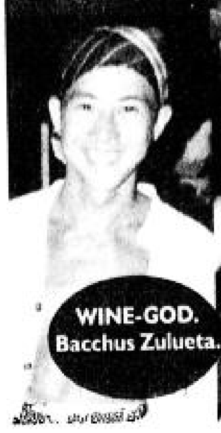
PHOTOS BY MARK NICDAO

CHIC AHOY! Jackie Antonio



THE CAST OF CASTAWAYS. Xeng Zulueta, Ipe Cruz, Jenni Epperson, Gino de la Paz, JR Isaac, David Nugent, Tina Tinio, Bryan Boy and DJ Montano.

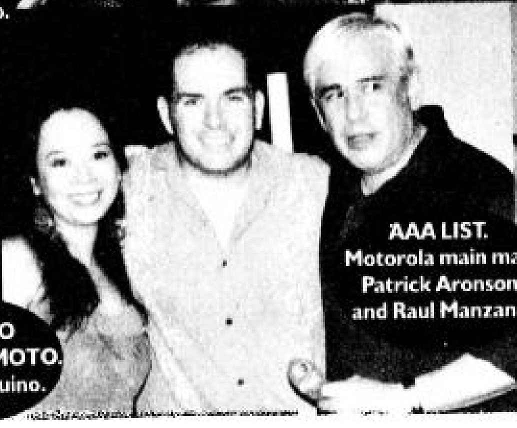
CHIC-WRECKED CREW.



WINE-GOD. Bacchus Zulueta.

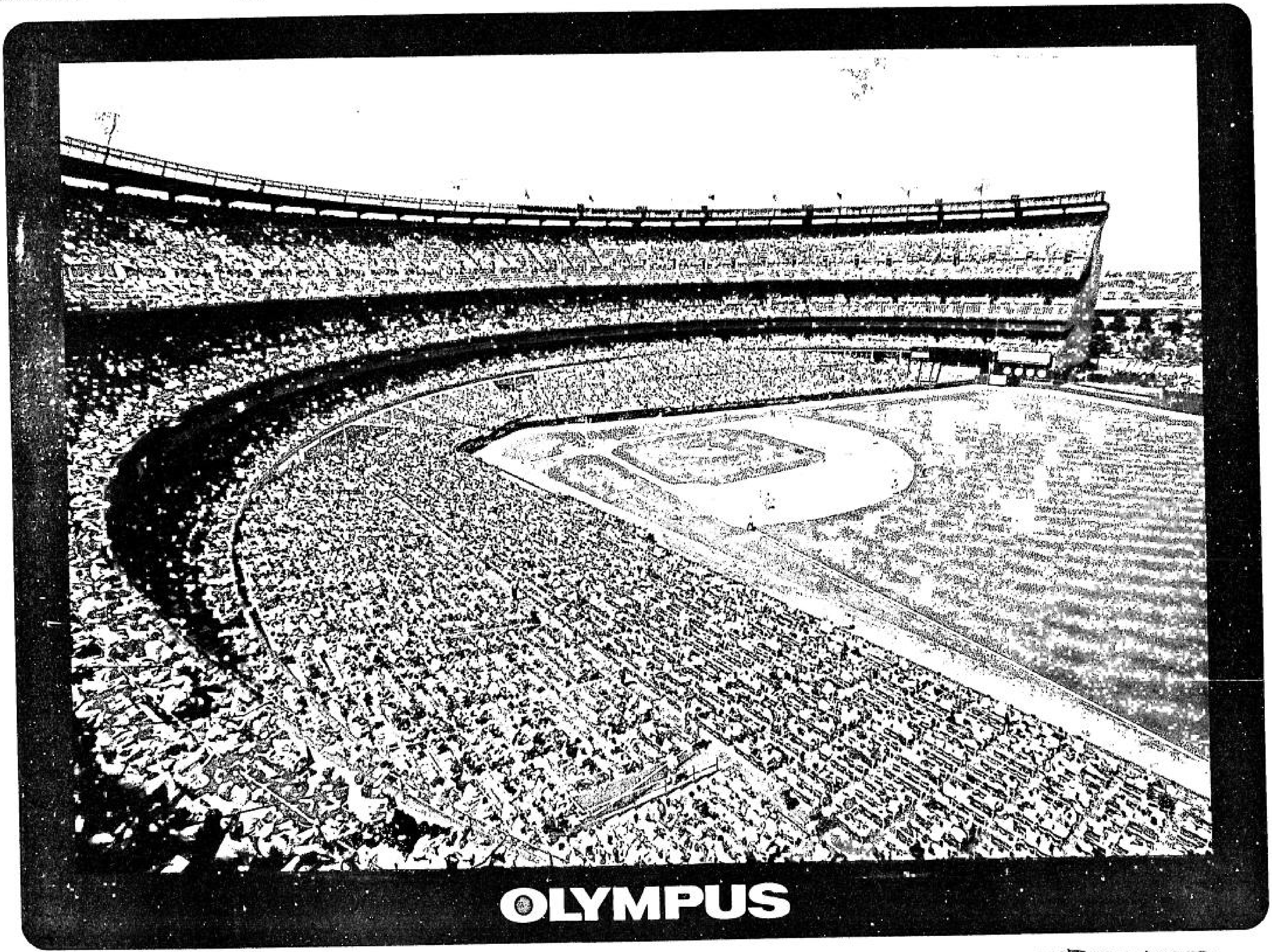
HELLO, GOOD VIBES! Cutie del Mar.

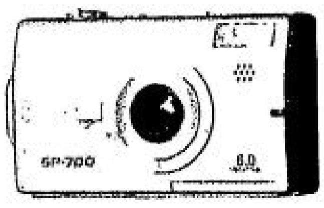
METRO SOCIETY MOTO. Glena Aquino.



AAA LIST. Motorola main man Patrick Aronson and Raul Manzano

THE BIRTHDAY BUNCH.





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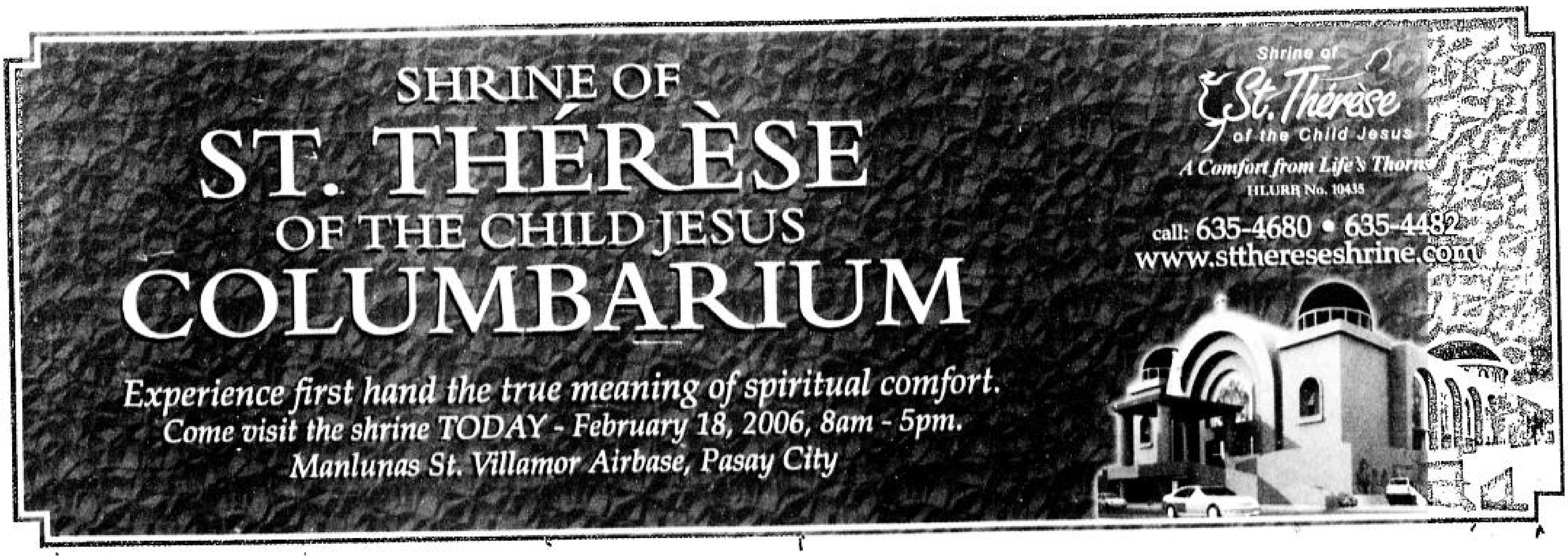

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■ SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

Wycoco's widow tells how her husband was distant, unfaithful

Baron of the Airwaves Pinoy Everyman's fave authority on everything

■ NEWS / A2

NBI to probe Pasig City mayor's stake in drug supermart

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 19, 2006 ★★★ 15 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 73 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Red reigns in color-coded PMA rites, but coup a dud

BA'T SILA NAKA-RED? TAPOS NA ANG VALENTINE'S!

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Red was the popular color here yesterday during the alumni homecoming of the Philippine

RED/ A19

Fugitive officer 'Sniper' housemate Nene's idol

By Fe Zamora

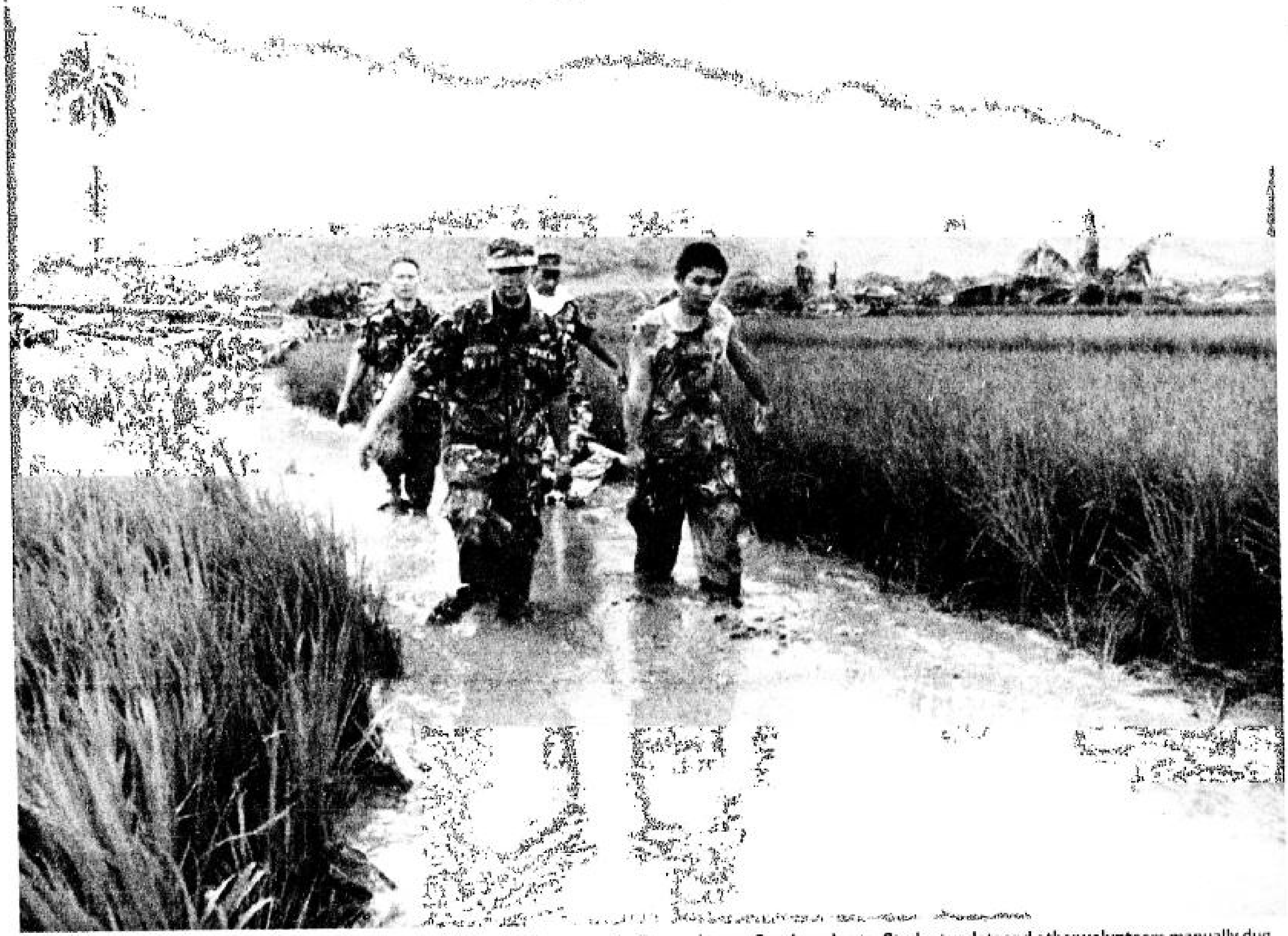
"PINOY BIG BROTHER" WINNER JENNIVEV "Nene" Tamayo has everything a woman could ever want.

She has fame, P1 million in cash, a Nissan Frontier pickup, a P2-million house and lot in Binangonan, Rizal, a P2-million franchise from Ink-for-Less and a job as a broadcast journalist with ABS-CBN.

FUGITIVE/ A20

Rescuers claw into mud

Movements limited, ground too soft to hold heavy equipment



A TEAM OF RESCUERS carries the body of a victim in Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte. Student cadets and other volunteers manually dug into the mud to get to the victims of the massive landslide that erased the 6-hectare village from the map. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Jani Arnaiz and Volt Contreras

GUINSAUGON, ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Rescue workers clawed at the thick mud with their bare hands, unmindful of the howling wind and blinding rain.

But the stench suggested that only corpses now lay underneath the pile of mud where more than 1,000 villagers were feared buried. As of 7:20 p.m. yesterday, the Department of Interior and Local Government at the St. Bernard town hall said the number of dead had reached 56.

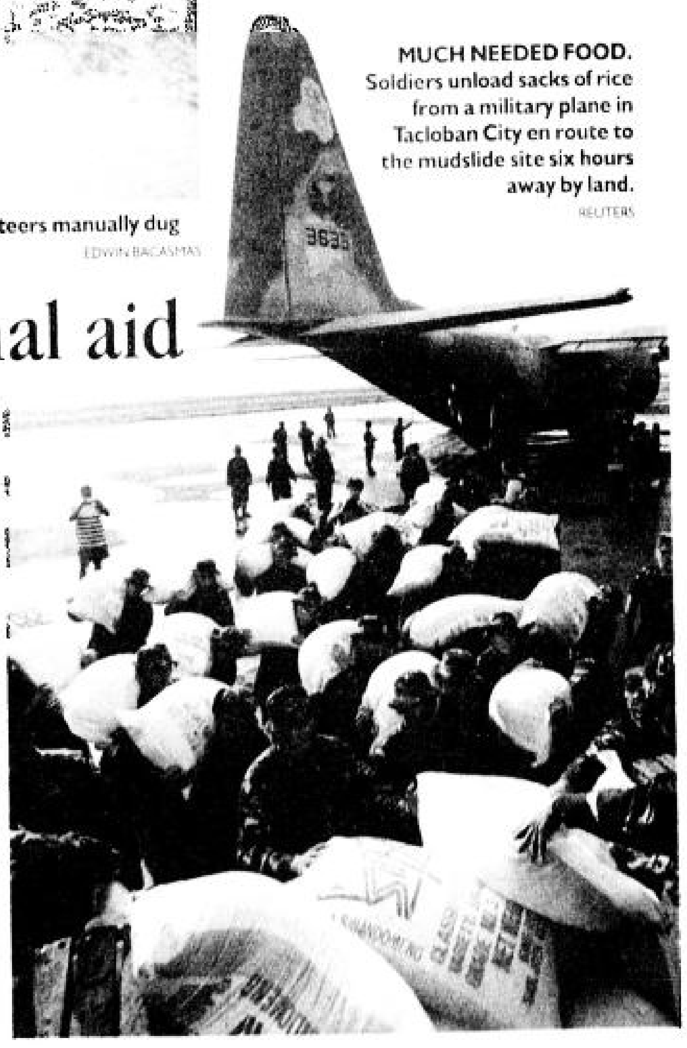
Earlier, as of 5 p.m., 39 bodies had been retrieved by search-and-rescue teams working feverishly since the break of dawn. No survivors had been found.

With the 11 bodies found on Friday, the number of corpses recovered from the muck then had stood at 50, according to Sgt. Mario Apigo of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in St. Bernard.

More than 24 hours after a killer landslide entombed this six-hectare hillside village, rescuers appeared to be on the losing end against time and nature.

They had to severely limit their movements to avoid falling into their own instant graves. One false step could mean sinking in four feet of mud.

RESCUERS/ A8



MUCH NEEDED FOOD. Soldiers unload sacks of rice from a military plane in Tacloban City en route to the mudslide site six hours away by land. REUTERS

Landslide triggers avalanche of international aid

SHARING THE FILIPINOS' HORror, nations from around the world yesterday pledged money and medicines to help the victims of Southern Leyte's devastating landslide. The United States sent warships and 1,000 Marines while one international body promised mosquito nets and cadaver bags.

US President George W. Bush, traveling on a day-long trip to Florida for a speech on terrorism and a political fundraiser, was briefed on the landslide that buried hundreds of homes and some 2,000 people in the coastal village of Guinsaugon, the White House said.

In New York, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan sent a message of condolence to the victims and their families, saying he was "deeply saddened by the loss of life and destruction."

Earlier, from the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI urged nations to be "swift and generous" with their help.

LANDSLIDE/ A8

MUD, MUD, MUD everywhere, and residents can only look on hopelessly. They tread carefully through rain-soaked mounds of earth lest they fall to their instant graves. JANI ARNAIZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Blind great-grandma bears 12th child

REDDING, CALIFORNIA—A 62-year-old blind woman gave birth to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce (2.3 kilogram) baby boy, becoming one of the oldest women in the world to successfully bear a child.

The newborn is the 12th child of Janise Wulf, who has been blind since birth. She is a grandmother of 20 and great-grandmother of three.

Family members said the delivery at Mercy Medical Center went smoothly Friday, despite earlier concerns about the mother's health. Wulf, a diabetic, experienced swelling and high blood pressure earlier this week, prompting doctors to perform a Caesarean section a week early.

"I believe our only hesitation collectively was her health and her coming through this. Giving birth is hard at any age, in any body, let alone with her being 62," Wulf's 28-year-old daughter, Desiree Myers, told the Redding Record Searchlight newspaper. Myers gave birth to a baby of her own four months ago.

Wulf and her third husband, Scott, 48, named the red-haired boy, Adam Charles Wulf. He follows just 3 1/2 years behind his older brother, Ian.

"I hate to raise one alone, without a sibling," said Wulf, who was impregnated both times through in vitro fertilization.

Wulf has given birth to a total of 12 children, although one son died in his 30s and another died at birth with undeveloped lungs. Of her 10 living children, the oldest is 40.

While Wulf isn't the oldest on

BLIND/ A19

Village was disaster waiting to happen

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LANDSLIDE THAT BURIED the coastal village of St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, was a tragedy waiting to happen, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said yesterday.

In fact, the region where St. Bernard lies has been the scene of natural disasters since 1749, when a volcano in the area erupted through its six mouths, historical records showed.

Since 1991, four deadly landslides and floods have also struck the region and claimed thousands of lives.

The DENR said in a statement that the site of Friday's deadly mudslide lay near the so-called Philippine fault which refers to a crack along the earth's crust that could generate earthquakes.

"Geologically, it (the area) is underlain by volcanic rocks characterized by intense fracturing and weathering," said the statement.

"This makes it unstable and susceptible to mass movement,"

VILLAGE/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Eastern Visayas and the eastern and southern sections of Mindanao which may cause flash floods and landslides.

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/19/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FRONT PAGE

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NBI to probe razing of 'shabu mart'

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ SAID YESterday he had ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the alleged involvement of Pasig City officials in the operation of a "shabu supermarket" and the "suspicious" dismantling of the complex of drug dens by Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Gonzalez said that for the operation of the complex of shabu dens to have gone unnoticed for two years by city, barangay and police officials was unusual and had serious implications.

"First, you consider that this has been in operation for a long time already and it was never noticed even if it was a stone's throw away from a police station and even city hall. That is something unusual," he said, adding that the drug dens were known as an "open market."

According to him, it was impossible for police or city officials not to have noticed it, given the number of people going there. "It's incredible to believe that they were never involved," he said.

Gonzalez also said it was unlikely that barangay officials did not know about the shabu market, given their control and influence over the areas within their jurisdiction.

"Those are things that we will look into ... including the justification for the demolition," which he described as a "little unusual."

Gonzalez acknowledged the demolition of the complex could have been a "knee-jerk reaction" on the part of Mayor Eusebio to get rid of something that had given him a black eye.

"The only thing suspicious there is that the place has just been raided and it was immediately dismantled," Gonzalez said.

Last Friday, Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. claimed that a certain "Pacman" had been collecting payoffs from the shabu market on behalf of the mayor's office. He quoted antidrug operatives as saying that the drug market earned up P12 million a day.

Gonzalez said he had asked the NBI to look into the matter in view of Jaworski's charge.

Gonzalez said he had also received a letter from Director Marcelo Ele of the Anti-Illegal Drugs and Special Operations Task Force requesting an investigation.

Gonzalez said he would ask Jaworski and Ele to submit their respective findings, leads or evidence in the operation of the drug den and the alleged involvement of Eusebio's men.

"Representative Jaworski knows that you cannot just charge anybody without evidence," Gonzalez said.

He said the Department of Justice would not hesitate to charge Eusebio if there was evidence pointing to his involvement in the operation of the drug dens or that he had tampered with material evidence by having the complex dismantled.

Gonzalez had said earlier that Eusebio could be charged as an accessory to the crime of drug pushing if it were established that he had ordered the demolition of the shabu market to cover up his alleged involvement in the drug business.

"We are assessing the situation. The mere fact that there was a demolition could mean that either there is a cover-up or that they have already gathered enough evidence to strengthen their case," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

Meanwhile, Ele told reporters at Malacañang yesterday that the demolition of the shanties making up the shabu complex could hamper police in gathering evidence.

Ele and Anselmo Avenido, director general of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, were in Malacañang where President Macapagal-Arroyo honored police and other officials responsible for last week's raid on the Pasig shabu dens. More than 300 people, including minors and pregnant women, were caught using drugs and arrested.

Ele and Avenido said the authorities were looking into the possibility that the drugs sold in the Pasig complex were imported from China or the Golden Triangle because of their high quality.

"Since we have dismantled a lot of local drug-making laboratories, we think that the drugs sold in places like this were either part of the remaining inventory or brought in heavily from abroad, probably from China and the Golden Triangle," said Avenido. "The price of shabu has shot up to P5,000 per gram from only P2,000 two years ago."

The Pasig City police chief and six members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in charge of eastern Metro Manila were sacked following the drug bust.

A Berlin film fest win for 'Maximo Oliveros'

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

PINOY INDEPENDENT FILMMAKer Auraeus Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni [The Blossoming of] Maximo Oliveros" continues to bloom in the international cinema scene. The film won on Friday the Berlin International Film Festival's top Teddy Queer (Best Feature) Film award.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Teddy Awards have become the biggest of the prestigious Berlinale's events, spanning all categories. So while "Maximo" was entered in the Kinderfilmfest (children's) category, it was also eligible for the plum that recognizes excellence in gay and lesbian cinema.

Solito joins a group of distinguished filmmakers, including Pedro Almodovar, Francois Ozon, Derek Jarman and Gus Van Sant, who have each received a Teddy. Solito's film about a gay 12-year-old (Nathan Lopez) who befriends a cop (JR Valentin) competed with over 30 films.

Jurors cited "Maximo" for "its joyous and convincing portrayal of a queer boy living in an environment of acceptance and tolerance."

Bronze statuettes have replaced the plush toys that the winners used to receive. The Berlinale is the only one among the top international film festivals that gives awards to films with gay and lesbian themes. The festival's main prizes, the Golden and Silver Bears, were scheduled to be given Sunday, Feb. 19 (Monday in Manila).

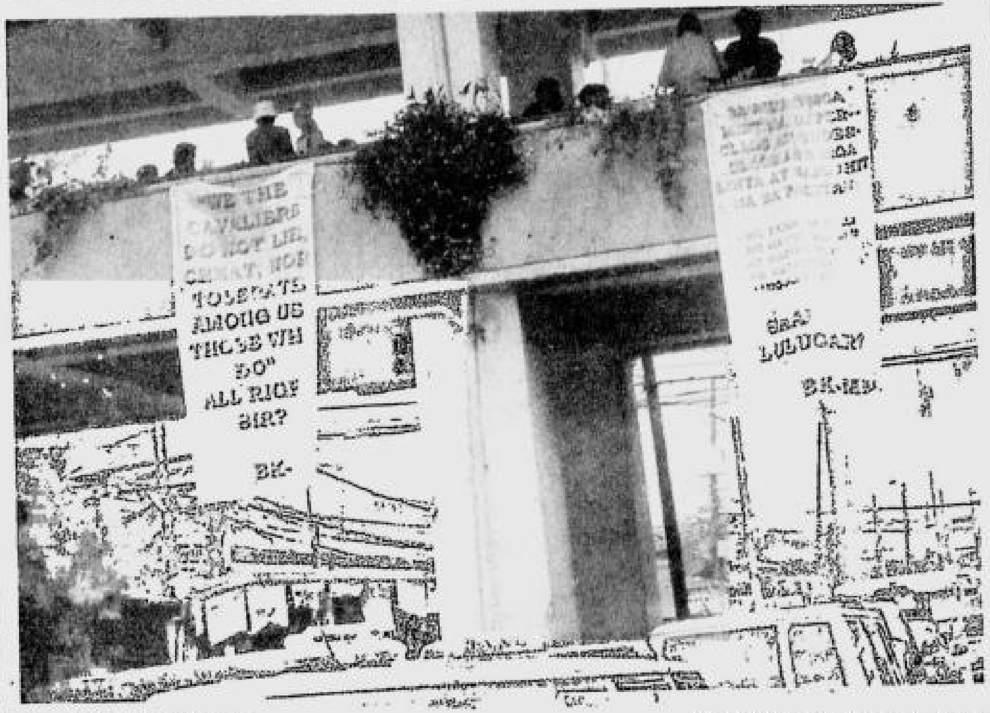
"Maximo" beat out early favorites like "Capote" from the United States and "Eleven Men Out" from Iceland. From 30, the final list was narrowed down to three. The two entries edged out by "Maximo" were "Breakfast on Pluto" by Irish-born Neil Jordan ("Crying Game," "Interview with the Vampire") and "Legaturi Bolnavicioase (Lovesick)" by Romanian Tudor Giurgiu.

The Teddy for Best Feature Film comes with an endowment of 3,000 euros ($3,571) from the Teddy Foundation, with the support of various Berlin gay and lesbian groups.

Among the jurors were festival organizers from Canada, USA, Great Britain, South Africa and Indonesia.

On Feb. 3, "Maximo," produced by ufo Pictures' Raymond Lee and written by Michiko Yamamoto, shared The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema Award with a Japanese film, "The Lost Hum," at the conclusion of the Rotterdam International Film Festival.

Last month, "Maximo" earned the distinction of being the first movie from the Philippines to participate in the Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Competition (Dramatic Category) held last month. "*Kahit ano ang ibigay sa akin ng Lord, masaya na ako*," Solito told the INQUIRER when asked in an interview in Sundance about his film's chances at these international film competitions. *With a report from Bayani San Diego Jr.*



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LOOK UP, MISTAH

Streamers with political statements greet pedestrians and motorists at the Baguio City public market after the Philippine Military Academy homecoming yesterday. One said, "We the Cavaliers do not lie, cheat nor tolerate among us those who do. All right, sir?" The other one had this message: "*Sa aming mga* mistah, upperclass at underclass *ang mga linya ay naiguhit na sa pagitan ng: tama at mali, ng katotohanan at kasinungalingan, ng katarungan at pang-aabuso… Saan ka lulugar* (To our mistahs, upperclassmen and underclassmen a line has been drawn between: right and wrong, truth and lies, justice and abuse... Where do you stand)?" Police took down the banners in the afternoon. *(See story on Page A1)*

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The Philippine Government through its Department of Energy (DOE) is committed to achieving 100% barangay electrification by 2008 through greater public-private sector participation and partnerships in rural and missionary electrification. The promulgation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) has given the authority for the entry of Qualified Third Parties (QTPs) in areas that are remote and unviable for electricity grids by distribution utilities. In line with these goals, DOE is currently conducting the World Bank-financed **Rural Power Project (RPP)** whose Mini-Grid Sub-Component involves the implementation QTP-based market packages for the provision of electricity services to a group of isolated or off-grid villages and communities using mini-/micro-grid electrification solutions (both generation and associated delivery systems). RPP provides both technical assistance to proponents of QTP-based market packages as well as capital assistance through the Bank's Adaptable Program Loan (APL) Phase I under the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The ***Rural Electrification Transaction Advisor for Mini-Grid Development*** is now sought to assist DOE in the preparation, marketing, bidding, evaluation, negotiation, financial closing and the approval by the ERC of transactions for already identified potential mini-grid projects by QTPs, with the objective of closing at least two (2) separate transactions. The Advisor must have at least ten (10) years of experience in actual financial transaction and must be composed of a team with diverse expertise in areas of structured and project finance, small generation facilities/rural distribution systems and costing, and financial/economic analysis. Interested consultants must provide information that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines. Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers published in January 1997 (revised in September 1977, January 1999 and May 2002). Interested Parties may obtain further information from the contact person and address below during office hours (9:00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.):

Melinda L. Ocampo
Undersecretary
Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Numbers 840-2120 or 8401401 local 132
Fax Number: 8402120 or 8405593
Email Address: mlo_phg@doe.gov.ph and/or mycaps@doe.gov.ph

The Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 10, 2006** (up to 5:00 p.m.)

The Bids and Awards Committee
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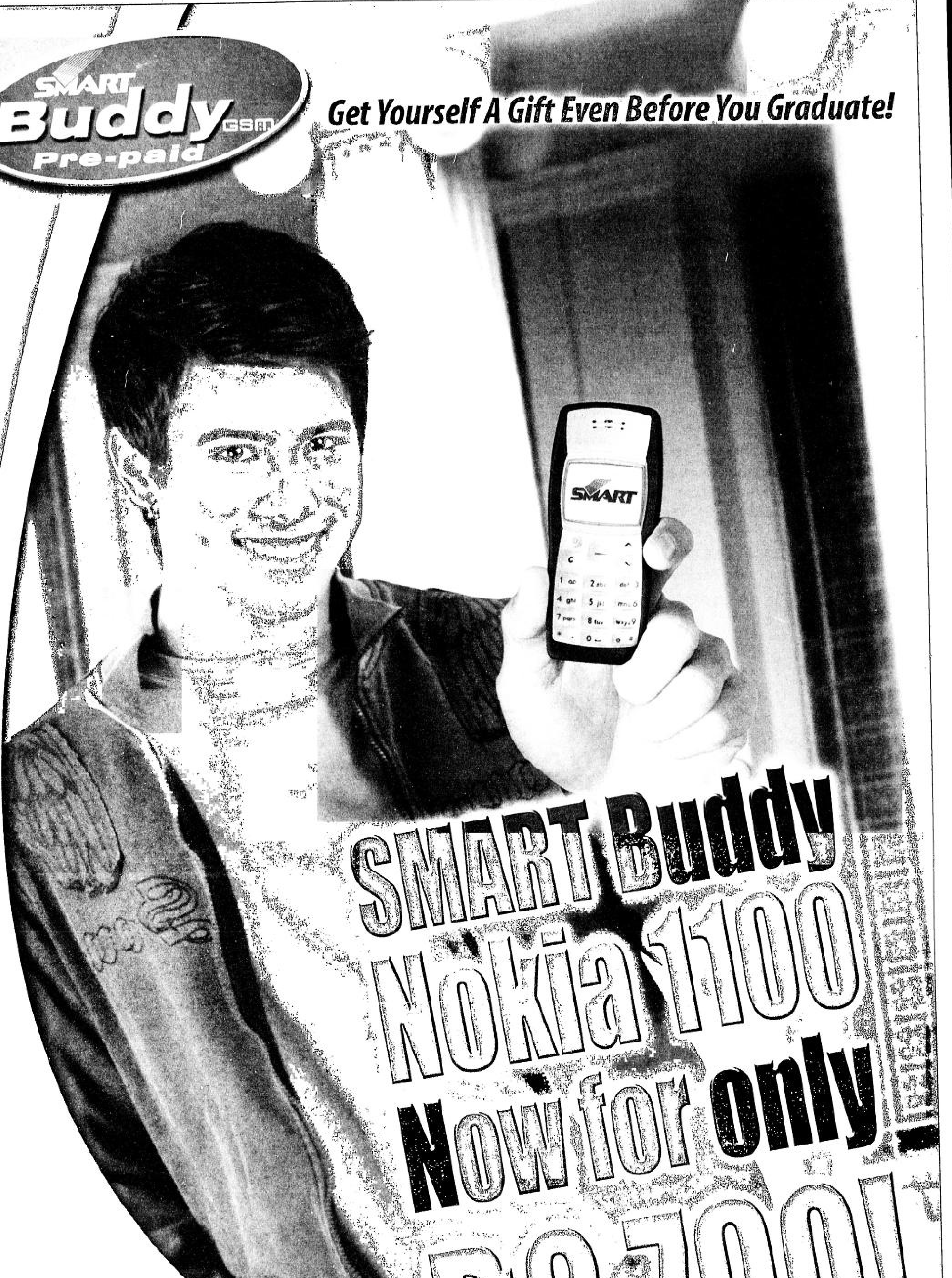

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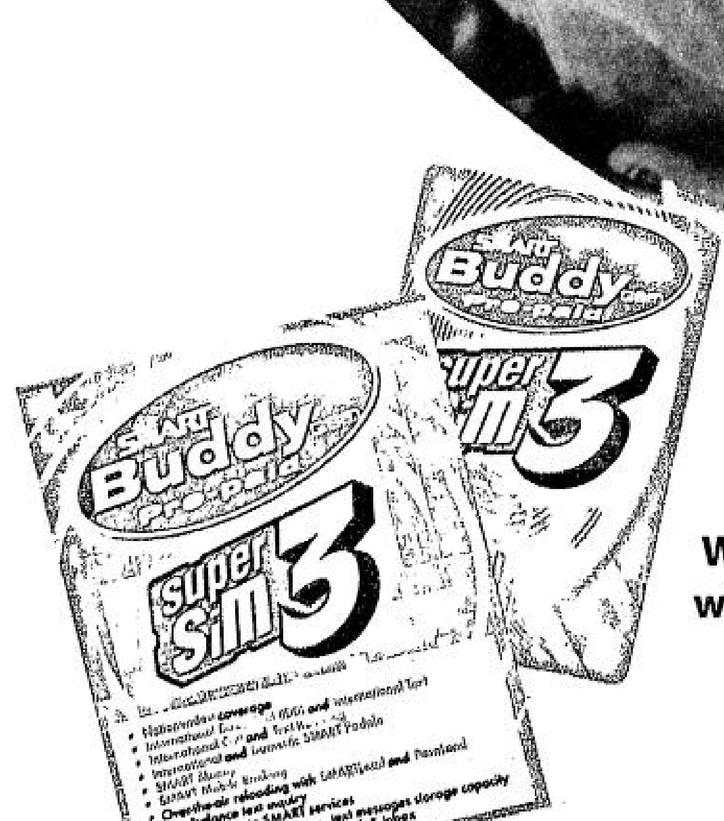
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Join us and feel the Sebastinian Spirit which only Dugong Baste people will realize and can relate to during our Grand Alumni Homecoming the 25th of February, 2006 at SSC-R Manila. Registration starts at 4:00 p.m., Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m., "Rambulan" starts after dinner.

Hosted by Class Batches '66 (Ruby Jubilarians), '76 (Pearl Jubilarians) '81 (Silver Jubilarians), be part of this rare gathering and rumble back to your Baste memories!

For particulars, please call the Alumni office at 733-5098 or 734-8931 loc. 164.

You may also get in touch with Mr. Alexander C. Salvador at 0918-9226683 or 0917-5392725. Or send any message thru galingbaste@yahoo.com / alumni@sscrmnl.edu.ph.

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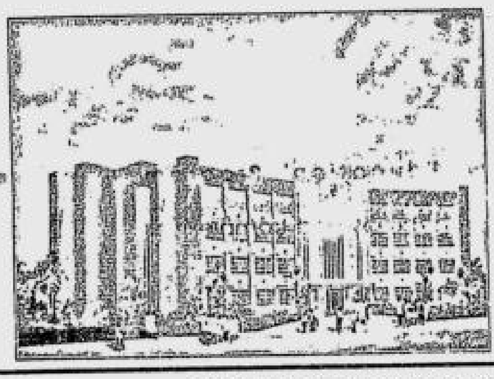

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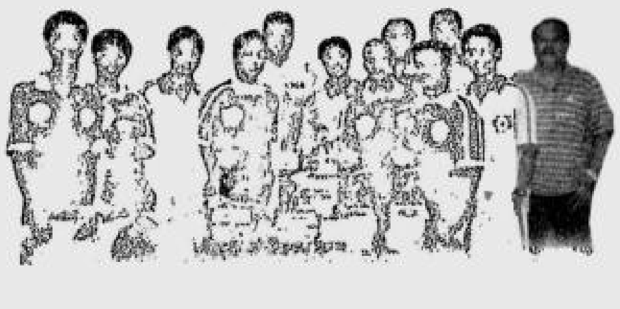

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Kampi: We're getting there

110 signatures collected for Cha-cha

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BARELY THREE DAYS AFTER launching a drive to push for Charter change among lawmakers, the pro-administration Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party already has more than half of the 195 signatures it needs to get Congress to convene itself into a constituent assembly.

This was disclosed yesterday by Kampi president and incoming Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno who said that Rep. Luis Villafuerte, who succeeded him as Kampi president, had been active in soliciting signatures.

"At last count, we already have 110 signatures of lawmakers who are willing to have a constituent assembly," Puno said in an interview.

Kampi's magic number of 195 represents three-fourths of the combined membership of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Kampi and other Charter change proponents interpret the constitutional provision that a three-fourths vote of the Congress membership was required to convene a constituent assembly to mean that the House and Senate should vote as one and not separately.

"If we get the 195 signatures, then we will have to go to the Supreme Court to have [this] proposition tested. After the Supreme Court decision comes out, that is the only time we will know whether we are going to have a constituent assembly," said Puno.

He said he was looking forward to the 2007 national elections which he saw as the ideal time to hold a plebiscite to approve constitutional changes.

He said that if the move to convene a constituent assembly to decide constitutional amendments succeeded, then it might be possible to hold a plebiscite simultaneously with the 2007 polls.

"We don't see this as a problem because very often in all democracies, you'll have elections concurrent with a referendum or plebiscite. We save on costs since we do it all in one move," Puno said.

He said he could not understand why the senators were averse to Charter change when some of them favored amending some of the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

"We're not changing the Charter yet, we are just providing a venue for debate which we believe is the constituent assembly," Puno said.

Puno said he himself was opposed to the proposal to scrap the 2007 elections from the start.

"We should have elections in 2007, whether it is parliamentary or not," he said.

Mining firm's bid to resume operations hit

LEGAZPI CITY—AT LEAST 22 militant groups and non-government organizations in the region have branded the consultation meeting held on Thursday by Lafayette Philippines Inc. with different sectors as a "*moro-moro*" and a desperate move by the Australian mining company to immediately resume operations.

"Regardless of assurances there would be more dialogues with the residents of Rapu-Rapu and Sorsogon as well as with the various militant groups, the fact remains that LPI will not compensate the affected communities and clean up the mess brought about by the mining operation late last year," said the Bicol Alliance Against Mining or BAAM.

The alliance, which is composed of different NGOs, academe and other sectoral groups such as Tanggol Kalikasan, Bicol Urban Poor Coordinating Council and the Social Action Center Foundation, said that LPI president and chief executive officer Carlos Dominguez said nothing new during the meeting.

"By all means the LPI wants to resume mining operation in Rapu-Rapu. There's no doubt that resumption is the next step on their mind," BAAM said.

"The dialogue as they say would be the venue for the different sectors to express their sentiments, but expressing one's sentiments is totally different from being heard," Jun Narvadez, area director of Tanggol Kalikasan, said.

Dominguez said the consultation would be the first "daring" move of the company to disclose their operations to the public.

He added that both the local government units of Rapu-Rapu and Sorsogon were more open now to the new study to be conducted by a new independent team it had formed.

"We're trying our best to be a partner of the communities. We just do hope that our detractors would accept the new findings, especially because we would like them to be there not as mere observers but active participants in the conduct of the tests."

In a statement, LPI said it will commission an independent group of scientists to test the mercury content of Sorsogon waters and where this is coming from.

Some environmental groups have insisted that Rapu-Rapu was the source of mercury and the cause of illnesses, including skin diseases affecting children in the province.

But Dominguez maintained that his company did not use mercury, but nevertheless commissioned an independent group to be the arbiter.

"Their findings would finally put an end to an issue where I believe the Rapu-Rapu project has been wrongly accused. How can we be accused of mercury contamination if we do not use mercury?" he said. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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1 killed in Jolo blast

JOLO, SULU—ONE MAN WAS killed and dozens, including two children, were wounded in an explosion near an army base in this town as Philippine and US soldiers prepared for annual exercises in the area, the Philippine military said on Saturday.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, army commander on Jolo, said the blast occurred in a makeshift karaoke bar about 10 meters from the gate of the camp.

"We don't know who was behind the attack," he told reporters. "But there's only one group capable of doing this – the Abu Sayyaf."

The dead man was not identified. Most of the injured in the 8:45 p.m. blast were soldiers and guest relations officers at Vimar Videoke Place.

Dr. Raden Ikbala of the Integrated Provincial Hospital said those brought in had burns and shrapnel wounds.

As of press time, authorities could not say what type of explosive was used. The videoke bar, made of light materials, was destroyed.

Lt. Col. Eddie Paruchabutr, spokesperson for the Balikatan-Humanitarian Program in Sulu, said about 250 US personnel were already in Sulu. The soldiers included doctors, dentists and engineers.

Senior Supt. Ahirum Ajirim, Sulu police chief, said, "We are on a very high alert status; every corner is adequately secured. We also have some troops serving as lead group whenever the Americans are moving around town." *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters*

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Preliminary analytic and design work for the establishment of a Performance Grant system for Local Government Units

CONSULTING SERVICES

Expressions of Internet

The Department of Finance, Government of the Philippines has received an IDF grant from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under a contract for preliminary analytic and design work for the establishment of a Performance Grant System (PGS) for Local Government Units. Additional Funding for this contract will be sourced from a World Bank executed ASEM Trust Fund.

The services are as follows:

A. Analytic tasks, including: (i) a review of LGUs resulting in an appropriate categorization of local governments and an assessment of their key institutional and governance weaknesses, (ii) a review of capacity-building activities and resources focused on LGUs, (iii) an overview of the chief sources of training and skills/systems development for LGUs within the country, (iv) an assessment of the likely relationship of the PGS to the existing intergovernmental fiscal system; (v) an assessment of any legal constraints and issues surrounding the implementation of a PGS

B. Grant design tasks, involving the development of detailed proposals inclusive of the following: (i) fund flow and source; (ii) identification of universe of beneficiary LGUs and the basis for allocating grant funds among these, (iii) specification of eligibility criteria and conditionalities, (iv) specification of supply-side inputs for capacity-building activities.

C. Development of grant instruments, including (i) an assessment manual and assessment process; (ii) a spreadsheet model to compute distributional outcomes, (iii) environmental, social and fiduciary frameworks regarding the use of the grant funds, (iv) model participation agreements for LGUs, (v) institutional arrangements for grant implementation and management.

D. Additional pre-implementation tasks, including (i) the initial assessments of LGUs for the first year of funding, (ii) initial technical assistance to help beneficiary LGUs prepare investment projects; (iii) development of a monitoring and evaluation system for the PGS.

The Department of Finance, Government of the Philippines now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers,*[1] May 2004

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 8 am to 5 pm

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by March 22, 2006.

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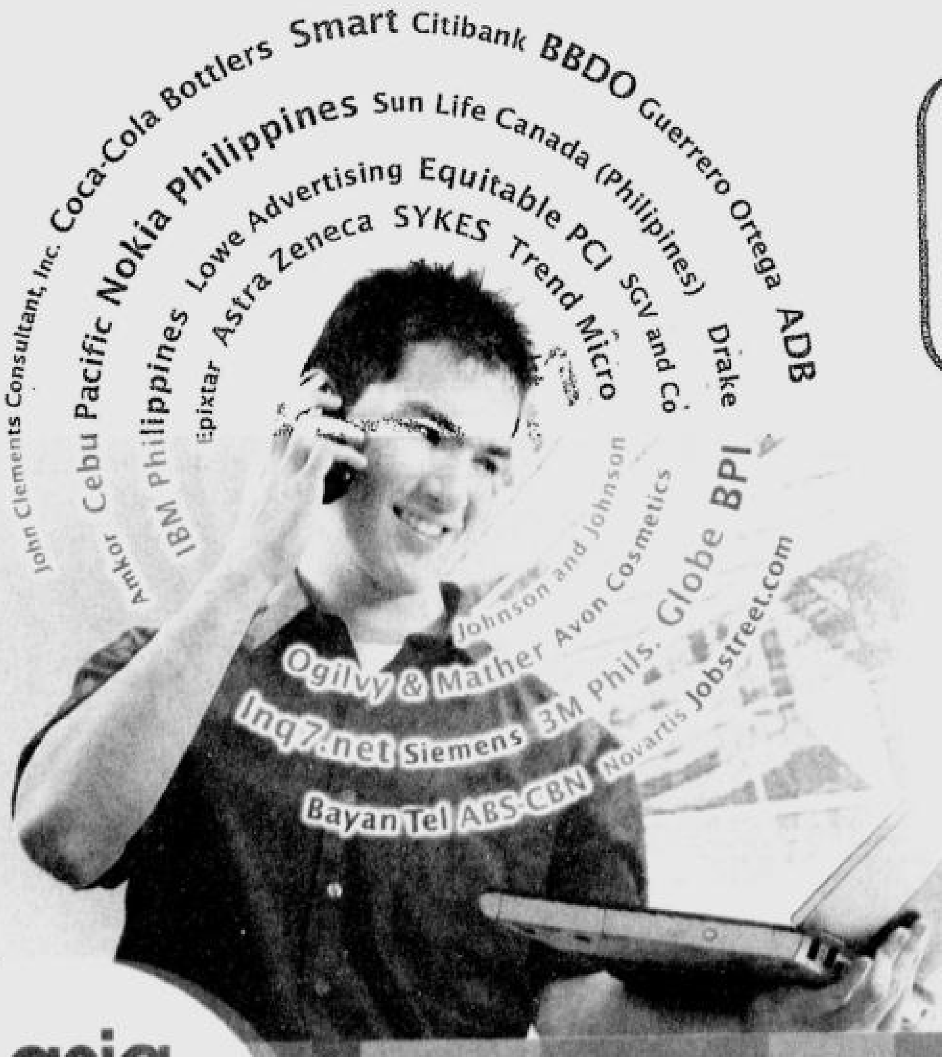

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COA to audit P35-B Marcos fund

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) will conduct an audit of the P35 billion in recovered Marcos Swiss bank deposits to determine if this was used in the 2004 election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday COA chair Guillermo Carague had agreed to form a special audit team to look into the Marcos funds.

"We must verify allegations that the Marcos money was illegally used during the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo considering that the funds were released just a few days before the May 2004 elections," Drilon said.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri had earlier admitted during a Senate hearing that only P13 billion of the Marcos funds were left for 2006. Of this total, some $200 million or P11 billion have been set aside for human rights victims during martial law.

Drilon also said that a six-man investigative team from the office of the Ombudsman would gather testimonial and documentary evidence from the Senate tomorrow on the Department of Agriculture's P728 million fertilizer fund, which was also allegedly used in Ms Arroyo's poll campaign.

"They will have copies not only of the paper trail but also of the transcript of the testimonies given in the Senate (about the fertilizer fund scam)," Drilon said.

He earlier called for a COA special audit after the administration released P544 million of the Marcos funds weeks before the May 2004 elections to buy seeds and fertilizer for the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) hybrid rice program of the government.

On top of the P544 million, the administration also took from the Marcos funds P500 million for irrigation projects and P900 million for farm-to-market roads, Drilon said.

Drilon said the release of the Marcos funds in 2004 might have been illegal since the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) did not issue a resolution allowing its disbursement after the funds were turned over to the government in January of that year.

PARC executive committee director Jefrey Galan had claimed that a November 2003 resolution of his committee was "carried over" to 2004 and became the basis for the release of the funds in 2004.

"They were saying that the (PARC) executive committee resolution which authorized the disbursement of P12 billion—which was passed in 2003—was carried over in 2004 and (Galan) asserted that this was the authority that they used to utilize the funds," Drilon said.

Drilon said the Senate would ask officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to show that they had the authority to release the funds.

"We would continue first with the budget hearings where they would have to explain this disbursement. How it was disbursed? And we will determine from there whether there is need for a separate inquiry," he said.

Drilon earlier pointed out the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law requires that all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses and their cronies be used to implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

In a March 23, 2004, letter to the Department of Public Works and Highways, former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said P900 million in Marcos funds was released for "implementation of DPWH-CARP infrastructure projects."

That same day, the Department of Budget and Management advised the National Irrigation Administration that P541.74 million in Marcos funds had been released to pay for "the implementation of activities under the Program Beneficiaries Development Component of CARP."

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 16 issue, a front-page story—"Hidden Ortigas treasures now open to the public"—described Escolta as the "principal retail business district at that time." Escolta is not a district, but a street in the Binondo district. Escolta served as Manila's elite shopping center for over a hundred years.

***

IN THE FEB. 16 issue, a front-page story—"House report: No answers to 'Garci' mystery probe"—misspelled the first name of the vice chair of the House committee on national defense. The congressman's first name is Rozzano—not Ruzzano—Biazon.

***

IN THE FEB. 17 issue, a front-page story—"Lame Edsa rites irk FVR; may not accept invitation"—misstated the dates when the first Edsa Revolution occurred. The revolution lasted from Feb. 22 to 25, 1986—not from Feb. 22 to 24.

***

IN FEB. 17 issue, a front-page story—"4 Pinoys invent personal weather bureau"—misstated the profession of the supervisor of the Don Bosco students who helped invent the personal weather bureau. Cesar Llorente is an engineer, not a doctor. The article gave the incomplete name of the school where the computer-engineering students are studying. The school is Don Bosco Technical College—not Don Bosco College.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 19, 2006
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

I wipe out your offenses

Thus, says the Lord: "Do not dwell on the past, or remember the things of old.

"Look, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth.

"Do you not see? I am opening up a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

"I have formed this people for myself; they will proclaim my praise.

"You have not called upon me, O Jacob, indeed you were tired of me, O Israel;

"You have not spent money on sweet frankincense for me, neither have you satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.

"Instead you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

"Is it I, I am He who blots out your offenses for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Jesus' "Yes"

God knows that our dealing with you is not Yes and No, just as the Son of God, Christ Jesus, whom we—Silvanus, Timothy and I—preach to you, was not Yes and No; with him it was simply Yes. In him all the promises of God have come to be a Yes, and we also say in his name: Amen! giving thanks to God. God himself has anointed us and strengthens us with you to serve Christ; he has marked us with his own seal in a first outpouring of the Spirit in our hearts.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Cure of a paralyzed man

After some days Jesus returned to Capernaum. As the news spread that he was at home, so many people gathered that there was no longer room even outside the door. While Jesus was preaching the Word to them, some people brought a paralyzed man to him.

The four men who carried him couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowd, so they opened the roof above the room where Jesus was and, through the hole, lowered the man on his mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Now, some teachers of the Law who were sitting there wondered within themselves, "How can he speak like this insulting God? Who can forgive sins except God?"

At once Jesus knew through his spirit what they were thinking and asked, "Why do you wonder? Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say: 'Rise, take up your mat and walk?' But now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

And he said to the paralytic, "Stand up, take up your mat and go home." The man rose and, in the sight of all those people, he took up his mat and went out. All of them were astonished and praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Commentary

We are witnesses to the new things that God is doing, making a people for himself, making a desert into a land of springs and life, and he is forgiving us, wiping out our sins and transgressions. God is faithful and keeps his word. And in our baptisms, sealed in the Spirit, we are to learn to be "Yes," always "Yes" as the sons and daughters of God.

Jesus heals a man brought to him by his friends, lowered through the roof, and he heals him because of his friends' belief. We are summoned to be friends like that to one another, bringing one another in our weakness and sin before God, doing new things with God in the world. There is no limit to the power of God in us, if we are "yes" and we seek to share the Spirit that has been given to us.

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THE FRENCH

DAY 1 (February 23, 2006/ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
PCE Recognition of Outstanding Entrepreneurship Teachers / Students / Programs by PCE • FORUM 1: Building National Confidence and Optimism To Inspire More Successful Filipino Entrepreneurs - Moderators: Rico Hizon & Anna Marie Periquet - Panelists: Socorro Ramos, Hon. Jose Concepcion III, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Atty. Felipe Gozon, Vivienne Tan, Henry Lim Bon Liong, Rodrigo Rivera, Marixi Prieto*, Grace Glory Go • LUNCH BREAK TOPIC: Feng Shui Master Charlie Chao's Business Outlook • FORUM 2: A Global Market Beckons The Filipino Entrepreneur - Panelists: Dennis Mendiola, Dr. Paco Sandejas, Guillermo Luchangco, Ben Colayco, Menardo Jimenez Jr. • FORUM 3: Uncommon Heroes for the Common Good - Panelists:Dr. Justin Arboleda, Francisco Colayco, Ray Gapuz Jr., Rina Lopez-Bautista*, Dylan Wilk, Gerry Geronimo* • Breeding The Entrepreneurial Mindset and Culture By Raju Mandhyan • FORUM 4: New Approaches in Entrepreneurship Education • CULMINATING FORUM: Triggering the Age of Entrepreneurship in the Philippines - Panelists:Sec. Arthur Yap, Sec. Estrella Alabastro, Chairman Carlito Puno, OIC/Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Executive Director Gondelina Amata, Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte*, Linda Wirth*, Johnlu Koa, Prof. Josephine Aguilar

DAY 2 (February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
Opening Ceremonies Cutting of Ribbon:VP Noli de Castro, Sen.Manuel Villar, Sen. Manuel Roxas II,Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.,Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Cong.Wilhelmino Alvarado, Mayor Rosendo Capco, Mayor Freddie Tinga, Government Officials, Partner Organizations • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Business Plan Competition Brief: PCE/PESO, CFBC, ENEDA, JCI, HSBC, TIES, ONIA, GEN-P • Easy Tips on How to Start a Retail Business and How to Supply to Retailers - By: Steven T. Cua • "Elevator Pitch" Exhibition by Business Plan Contest Winners & Runners-up • Funding Options for Outstanding Business Plans • Easy on the pocket Business Ideas By: Food Cart Association of the Philippines • Awarding of PCE-ENEDA Cup Winners • GO NEGOSYO Concert with Orange and Lemons at the Central Plaza, Market! Market!

DAY 3 (February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • International Workshop on Technopreneurship - Conducted by: Prof. Patrick Chan - HOST: DOST • Franchise Your Business An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Safeguarding and Optimizing Your Intellectual Capital - By: Intellectual Property Office

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Rescuers claw into mud, ground still too soft

From page A1

With no new survivor found as of press time yesterday, the rain-soaked mounds of earth that used to be Barangay Guinsaugon were the only things showing signs of movement—but menacingly.

Capt. Roman Dioso of the Philippine Air Force's 5052nd Search and Rescue Squadron said his men could only work manually as the ground under which hundreds are presumed buried alive was still too soft to support heavy equipment.

Also, the eroded slope of Mt. Kan-abag, which looms over the village, was still unstable. Dioso said PAF helicopter pilots had been instructed to avoid making flyovers so as not to cause "vibrations" that could trigger another massive landslide.

Cracks, running water

Friday's landslide carved a path visible from several kilometers and stretching from the peak of Kan-abag some 2,000 feet above sea level.

The eroded portion widens to about 3 km down the slope before spreading out like a fan hitting the village below.

From afar, Dioso said, Kan-abag's exposed face could be seen changing color and texture.

"There are now white streaks where there used to be just brown a few hours ago, indicating cracks and running water," he told the INQUIRER at the rescuers' staging area some 2 km from Guinsaugon. It was around 3 p.m.

"We can only take hand tools with us and we cannot even work closely together," he said, noting that a minor landslide occurred the other day and endangered some rescuers and three survivors who had tried to serve as "guides."

A number of rescuers attempted to get to the Guinsaugon Elementary School, particularly after word spread that six teachers had sent text messages to their relatives at around 10 a.m. asking for help.

But the rescuers could get no closer than 300 meters from the school, which is located right at the foot of Kan-abag's unstable slope.

'Reclamation area'

Brig. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, commander of the 8th Infantry Division and overall ground commander of the rescue teams in Guinsaugon, said he found it hard to believe that the schoolteachers had been able to send text messages.

Ramos said he surveyed the disaster area from the air early yesterday afternoon and saw that nothing was left standing.

He said Guinsaugon looked like "one big reclamation area."

Reached by phone from Manila, Col. Raul Farnacio, commander of the 43rd Infantry Brigade that is in the thick of search and rescue operations at the site, could not say whether the school's structure would hold under tons of mud and boulders.

But he said he had been told that the school was newly built.

"There's just too many of them dead. For now we're leaving the dead as they are because our main concern is to rescue survivors, if there are any," Farnacio said.

He said their main concern was to dig out the 206 students and 40 teachers believed trapped in the school before more landslides and heavy rain prevented further rescue operations.

But when asked what he thought of the chances of finding survivors, Farnacio said: "It's getting dim."

According to Lt. Rted Esguerra, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard medical corps, equipment arriving from Malaysia can detect sound in the area where the school is located. These sensitive microphones are called delsar.

He said based on his experience in rescue operations, chances of survival in landslides were lower compared to survival in collapsed buildings.

When a building collapses, he said, chances are there will be crevices that will be created. In a landslide, the material which is earth, "seals itself."

He said that if by any chance the survivors underneath still had oxygen, he was giving them four to seven days to survive without water.

Quoting local guides, Esguerra said at least three people claimed to have heard coughing underneath. But when he verified it himself, it turned out negative.

Wind and rain

It did not help that the weather had been inclement days before the mountain "exploded."

Until about 3 p.m. yesterday, helicopters could not land anywhere near Guinsaugon because of the heavy rain and strong wind.

And it was dark in the ravaged village, as though it were evening.

The heavy rainfall over Southern Leyte is caused by the low-pressure area sighted east of southern Mindanao and the northeastern wind blowing in the country's eastern side, according to Cebu weather forecaster Kelly Tarragoza.

Close to 200 rescuers from about a dozen government and volunteer groups have taken turns in the area, but as of late afternoon yesterday could only use two bulldozers driven up to the edge of the landslide to transport newly recovered bodies.

Inside their main tent, all they could rely on for directions was a crude map of the village drawn on a white board, and the tentative word of the missing's distraught kin.

The map especially marked where the elementary school and two churches were supposed to be.

'Nobody died then'

Liza Calapre, 32, who yesterday still hoped to find her only child Kimberly alive among the pupils trapped inside the school, said Guinsaugon was no stranger to landslides.

"But they were minor ones and nobody died then. Not this way," she said about her village where most residents lived on rice, coconut or abaca farming and some households became better off from the earnings of seamen and overseas workers.

Aside from her child, Calapre said she was also hoping her father Lebatun, 54, and younger sister Charmaine, 11, were alive.

Calapre, a teacher trainee at the elementary school, was attending a seminar at the Southern Leyte State University in nearby San Juan town when her husband Dado phoned her at around 10:50 a.m. Friday and told her what he had just seen from the rice fields.

The first to come tumbling down were the big rocks, and then the whole village erupted in clouds of smoke like popcorn bursting, she said, recalling how her husband described the disaster.

Dado's first instruction to her was "call everyone in the village who has a number stored in your cell phone."

Unlucky missions

"But I could not contact any one of them," Calapre said.

It was a little past noon yesterday when the INQUIRER joined a team of soldiers, student cadets and government officials in a rescue mission.

The team walked for three hours from the St. Bernard town proper some 7 km away and crossed the raging Lawigan River, one of the routes that link this village to the town proper, in the vain hope of finding even just one person alive.

The other teams that went before were just as unlucky, and were reduced to the sad task of pulling body after body from the mud.

All the corpses were taken to a "common retrieval area" in what was surmised to be the center of the village, according to Ramos.

The teams said the counting would be done later.

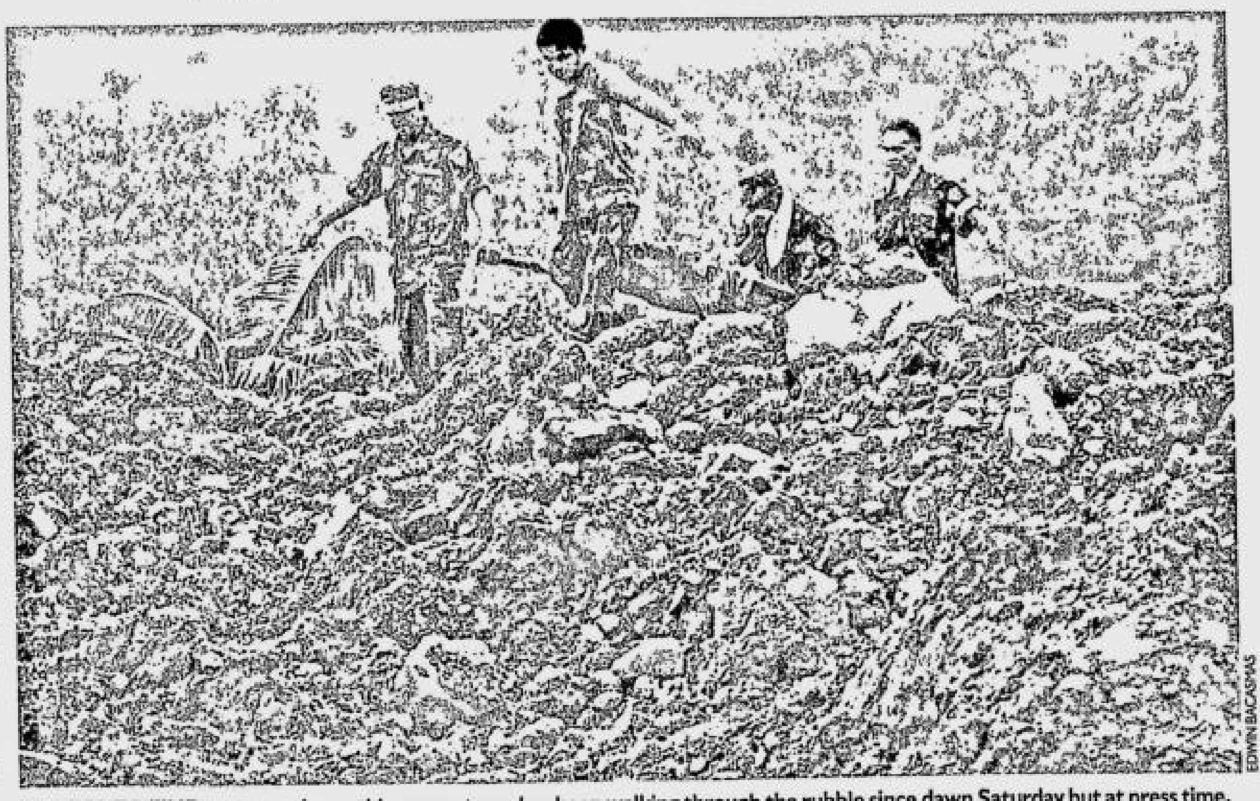
The grim, if unmatched, figures were earlier provided by the OCD (409 survivors, 50 dead, 962 missing, 1,448 evacuees) and the DILG's Yvonne Apigo-Abad (411 survivors, 53 dead, 891 missing). The OCD said that of the 50 dead, 31 had been identified, 891 were missing residents from Guinsaugon and 38 were others from outside the village.

Injured to Anahawan

Twenty-one survivors were taken to the district hospital in Anahawan, two towns away from St. Bernard.

Of the 21, two have since died—Christine Jane Pia, 3, and Antonio Bulagsak, 50.

Data encoder Jerry Jamera said Bulagsak was to have been airlifted to Tacloban City but died only minutes after the helicopter took off. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Rolando Abad in Manila*



EDWIN BACASMAS

HOPING TO FIND more survivors, this rescue team has been walking through the rubble since dawn Saturday but at press time, they had not found a single person alive. But the stench in the entombed village suggests only corpses lie beneath the earth.

GMA: We won't rest until everyone is found

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday vowed that search-and-rescue operations in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, would continue until the last bodies were recovered.

Ms Arroyo also ordered government agencies to alert—and if necessary evacuate—residents from other areas threatened by landslides.

"We will not rest until all the remains are recovered and provided a proper dignified burial," she said during a top-level meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Camp Aguinaldo.

"I'm saddened by the death of those precious schoolchildren whose innocence and hope have been so tragically snuffed out," she said, reading from a teleprompter.

The government has mobilized hundreds of government personnel, various military and government assets, as well as earmarked millions of pesos worth of assistance for the search-and-rescue operations.

The Armed Forces has mobilized hundreds of personnel and air and sea assets for the task.

The Air Force has deployed two C-130 cargo aircraft and three helicopters; the Navy, the patrol gunship BRP Mariano Alvarez; and the Army, its personnel nearest to the site, the 43rd and 19th Infantry Battalions.

Hospital ships

The Coast Guard has sent two vessels, the BRP Ilocos Norte and the BRP Pampanga, which serve as hospital platforms for the injured.

The social welfare and health departments reported that they had sent teams of social workers and medical staff as well as medicines, blankets and food items.

In Binalonan, Pangasinan, the President expressed deep sadness over the tragedy and announced that the government had embarked on the 4Rs—relief, rescue, recovery and rehabilitation.

Ms Arroyo traveled to Binalonan, her late mother Eva's hometown, to attend its fiesta. But her speech revolved around how she felt about the tragedy and what the government was doing to help the victims.

"We should rescue the victims and give them all the needed assistance. All victims must be accounted for and, together, we must help them in rebuilding their homes and their futures," she said in Filipino.

She also called on every Filipino, regardless of political belief or economic circumstance, "to unite in compassion for the victims and survivors of this tragic event."

The Philippine Mines, Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) said it would send a team of 24 miners to Guinsaugon this morning.

In December 2004, a team from the PMSEA recovered survivors from Real, Quezon, 10 days after a landslide hit the town. *With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Landslide triggers avalanche of international aid

From page A1

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi offered condolences and the Foreign Ministry announced it was "preparing for appropriate assistance."

As Asia's biggest economy, Japan puts a priority on close relations with Southeast Asia and was a major donor after the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004.

Generators, blankets

Two US warships, 17 helicopters and 1,000 Marines participating in joint exercises with Philippine troops have been diverted to the disaster scene, officials said.

US Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones said the USS Essex and the USS Harper's Ferry were expected to reach Southern Leyte at daybreak today. The two ships can transport thousands of gallons of water-purification equipment, generators and blankets.

The US government also has turned over $100,000 worth of disaster equipment to the Philippine National Red Cross.

A C130 Blackbird of the US Air Force with an assessment team left Clark air base for Tacloban.

The United States Agency for International Development donated P2.9 million worth of food and non-food items.

Red Cross appeal

In Geneva, the International Red Cross on Friday appealed for two million Swiss francs ($1.52 million) to fund an aid operation for the ravaged village in the Philippines.

The funds will be used to buy "cooking utensils, mosquito nets, temporary shelter materials, health and hygiene articles, water containers and purification tablets for survivors over the next six months," the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement.

A relief plane was on its way to the scene carrying 1,000 body bags, emergency trauma kits to help 1,000 people, rubber boots, ropes, clothing, flashlights and medicine, the federation said.

JANI ARNAIZ

ST. BERNARD MAYOR Maria Yap-Lim escaped being buried alive in the village elementary school after she decided to attend another meeting instead of going to a women's group activity scheduled that morning of the mudslides last Friday.

Other countries near and far also announced they were helping.

China offered a donation of $1 million in cash and material assistance.

Australia said it would give A$1 million ($740,000) in immediate relief.

Taiwan said it would donate $100,000 and send emergency medical supplies that will include enough medicine to treat 3,000 people for a month and a half.

"Singapore officials are in contact with their Philippine counterparts on relief assistance we can provide to the affected areas," Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thailand said it would donate $100,000 in aid.

A 60-man Malaysian team arrived yesterday to help in search and rescue work and provide medical services.

Spain, the Philippines' former colonial ruler, said in a statement that it "profoundly laments the landslides."

A Spanish nongovernment organization, Unidad Canina de Rescate y Salvamento, promised to send a six-man rescue team and five search dogs.

Help had also begun to roll in from local political and church leaders.

House contributions

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the House leadership was mobilizing both majority and minority congressmen to raise a "rapid reaction fund" for the victims.

De Venecia made the first contribution of P250,000 to the fund while Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar donated another P100,000.

Catholic Church and government leaders in the Visayas rallied the public to extend help.

Archbishop Pedro Dean of Palo, Leyte, called on the faithful to offer not only prayers but also material things.

"I also instructed all the priests in the diocese to help raise funds for the victims," Dean said. He said a Mass for the victims would be conducted in all parishes under the Palo Diocese.

Over 400 Filipino soldiers from all parts of Eastern Visayas were sent to the disaster site.

Forty-two miners are scheduled to arrive in St. Bernard today to help in the rescue operations, according to Ernie Rodriguez, president of the Philippine Mining Safety and Environment Association.

The miners were from the companies Benguet, Philex, Lepanto, Rio Tuba/Coral Bay and Paganito Mining, he said.

Rodriguez said heavy equipment from Paganito Mining, based in Surigao, would be brought to Guinsaugon.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña sent a rescue team and he himself left for Southern Leyte to see how else he could help.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said the diocese would collect goods and financial donations.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon and Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia also promised to help.

ABS-CBN Sagip Kapamilya said it would airlift 250 food packs that include rice, noodles and canned goods, and water purifiers.

The Philam Fellowship of the Assembly of God donated blankets, canned goods, clothes and medicines while McDonald's Philippines donated 100 sacks of rice.

Calling on donors

McDonald's Charities yesterday advised those who want to donate to the victims of the calamity that McDonald's branches nationwide were accepting canned goods, bottled water, clothes, blankets, medicine and cash.

Donated items will be passed on to the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Red Cross, ABS-CBN Foundation, GMA 7's Kapuso Foundation, said McDonald's PR manager Zonito Torrevillas.

Those interested in donating may call tel. no. 0917-820-8123, Torrevillas said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Philip Tubeza, in Manila, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Joey Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Vicente S. Labro and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Rebs grab guns from cop station

CALAMBA CITY – ONE WEEK AFTER THE Philippine National Police declared all-out war against communist rebels, about 20 suspected members of the New People's Army raided the police station in Cavinti, Laguna, and carted away several firearms on Saturday.

It was the third police station ransacked by the NPA this year after raids in Albuera, Leyte, and Lingig, Surigao del Sur.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Laguna police director, said the rebels attacked the Cavinti municipal police station in Barangay Poblacion at around 1:30 p.m.

"Our policemen were really surprised. They were caught off guard," said Terte in a mobile phone interview.

He said the rebels took 10 long firearms, five handguns and five cellular phones belonging to policemen.

Terte said police were investigating how the rebels were able to enter the town proper undetected since a military detachment was situated a few meters from the police station.

He said he had ordered the relief of Cavinti police chief Senior Insp. Walter Esguerra for the failure of his men to defend the police station.

"He was not even at his office when the raid happened," Terte said.

Meanwhile, police on Thursday filed rebellion and criminal charges against the mayor of Lingig, Surigao del Sur, in connection with the Feb. 5 raid on the police station in the town.

Lingig Mayor Roberto Luna is facing rebellion and robbery charges in the Bislig City prosecutor's office. Earlier reports said the rebels abducted Luna and used him to enter the police station.

Also charged were Jose Ma. Sison, alias Joma Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and Maria Elona Loayon, alias Ka Maria Malaya, the NDF spokesperson in Lingig.

The guerrillas allegedly used Luna as a decoy to get in through the front door of the police station.

But police and civilian witnesses said "no gun was pointed at the mayor when he entered the station," indicating that he may not have been a hostage of the NPA.

Efforts to reach Luna for comment failed. He could not be contacted through his cell phone.

A day after the raid, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao ordered the relief of Senior Supt. Admirante Josue, Surigao del Sur PNP chief, Lingig police chief Insp. Evelyn Frugalidad, and 11 other policemen for their failure to put up a defense. *Marlon Ramos and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Bert Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 10, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on February 28, 2006; 3:00 pm. 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.).

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before March 14, 2006, 3:00 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 14, 2006, 3:00 pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

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3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Feb 12 & 19 2006)

Pinoy kidnapped in Lagos

LAGOS – NINE FOREIGN WORKERS, including a Filipino, were kidnapped on Saturday when armed rebels attacked one of Africa's biggest oil export terminals and announced a campaign to shut down production across the Niger Delta.

A manager from energy giant Shell, who asked not to be identified, told AFP guerrillas had attacked a pipelaying barge off the Forcados oil terminal and had taken the men hostage.

"The attackers came in five boats. We don't know the extent of the damage, but two soldiers were reported injured," he said.

The militants identified the captives aside from the Filipino as three Americans, a Briton, two Egyptians and two Thais. None of them were identified. *AFP*

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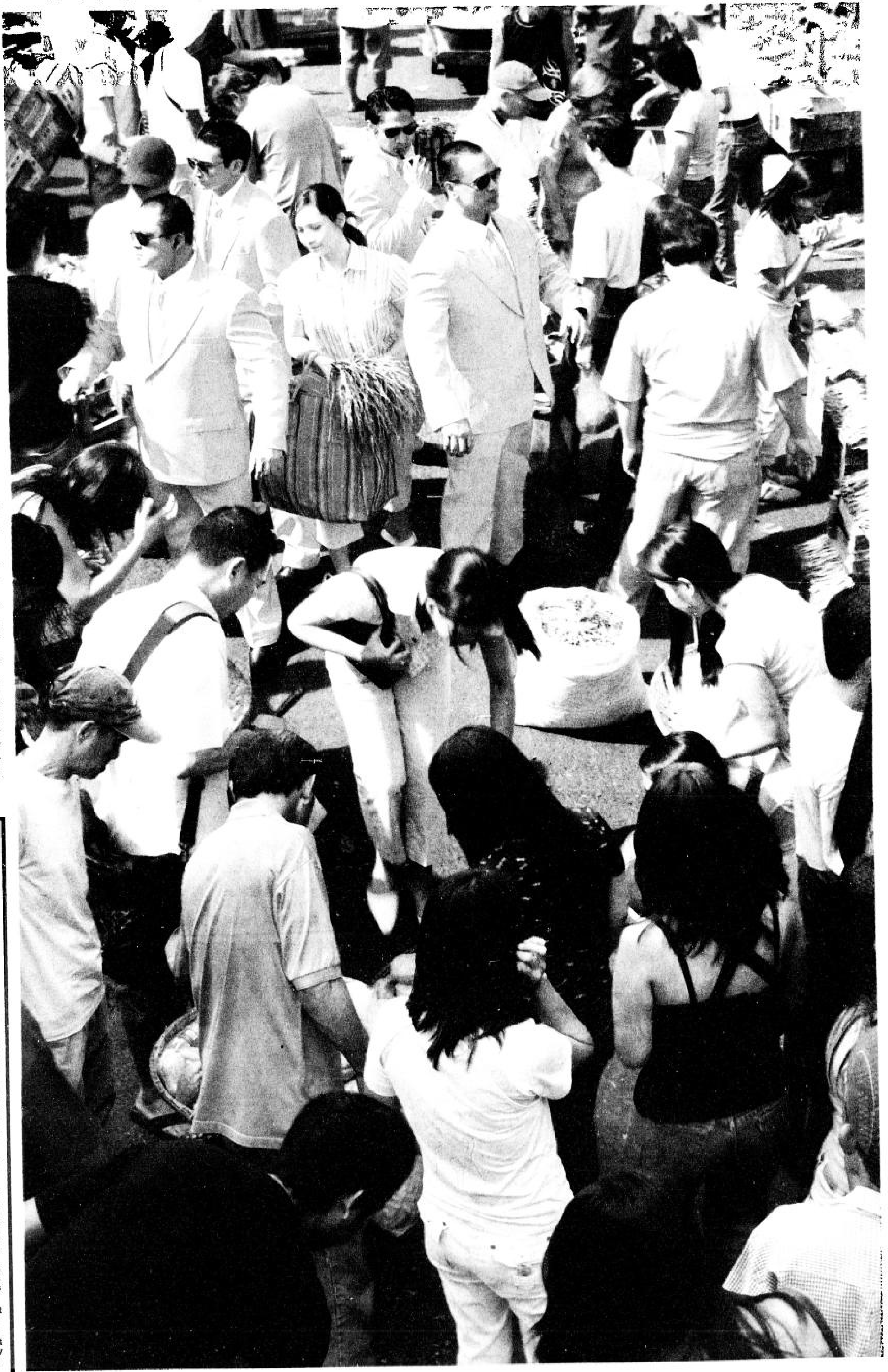

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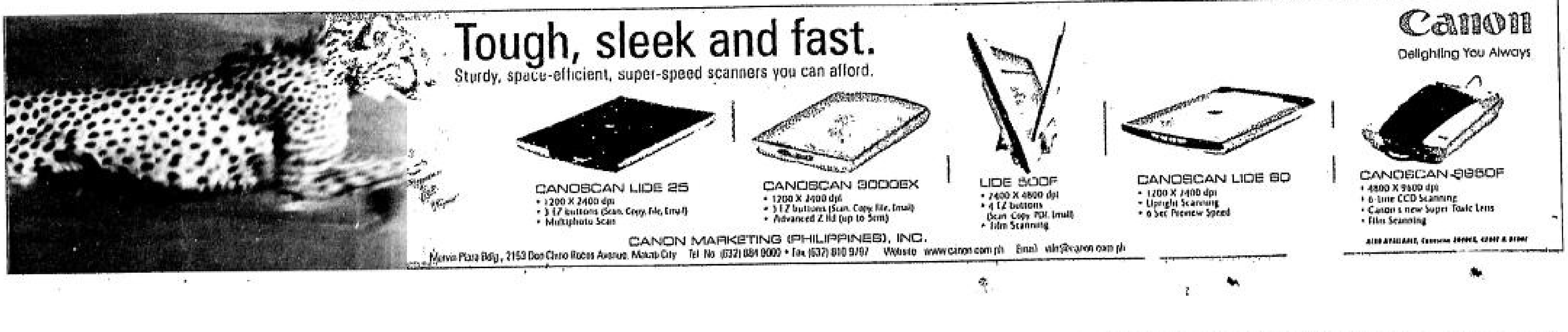

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10 killed in cartoons protest

TRIPOLI—LIBYAN POLICE LATE FRIDAY KILLED AT least 10 people and wounded dozens more after around 1,000 demonstrators torched Italy's consulate in Benghazi to protest against the Prophet Muhammad cartoons published in European newspapers.

Police threw teargas grenades and opened fire with live ammunition on the demonstrators, witnesses said.

"At least 10 demonstrators have been killed according to the police who sent me that toll," the first secretary of Italy's embassy here Dominico Bellatoni said after the unrest in the northeast Libyan city.

He added: "No Italian was hurt when a thousand demonstrators attacked the consular building after Friday prayers and set the first floor on fire."

Another Italian diplomat, who asked not to be named, said: "The consulate was closed to the public and only six staff members were inside, but none of them was injured."

Private sources contacted from Tripoli said the toll was higher, "between 15 and 25," while "very many injured" had been taken to the Al Jala hospital in Libya's second city and economic powerhouse.

Libyan TV said that 11 people had been "hit, some of them killed" and added that the Benghazi authorities had asked the public prosecutor to open a probe into the police handling of the demonstrators.

It was the first action against Italian interests in a Muslim country since protests began against Muhammad caricatures throughout the Muslim world.

In Pakistan, police fired on a crowd protesting the cartoons Saturday, injuring at least four people, police said.

The incident happened in Chaniot, a small city about 300 km northeast of Multan in eastern Pakistan, where hundreds of protesters gathered, residents said.

Mohammad Ishaq, an area police official, said officers fired on protesters trying to burn shops.

In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi demanded the resignation of Reform Minister Roberto Calderoli of the xenophobic Northern League party who sparked the Benghazi attack.

Calderoli has frequently attacked Islam in recent weeks. Berlusconi said Calderoli should resign for wearing a T-shirt bearing the Muhammad cartoons.

Police sources said a group split off from the main demonstration in downtown Benghazi and headed for the consulate bearing banners with Islamist slogans.

Some of the marchers shouted slogans against the Libyan regime of Col. Moamer Kadhafi, according to witnesses.

"A large number of police vehicles was sent to the scene to encircle and contain the demonstrators, but some managed to get through the barrier and got into the consular building which they set alight," police said.

An official statement issued after the demonstration said: "Libya denounces and stigmatizes what an irresponsible group did on Friday and which in no way reflects the feelings of the Libyan people."

The communique "reiterates Libya's firm position against the aggressions that Islam has been subjected to," a reference to the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that first appeared in a Danish paper. *AFP*

$11.5-M bounty for cartoonists

LUCKNOW, INDIA—AN INDIAN STATE GOVernment minister has offered a reward of $11.5 million for the beheading of any of the cartoonists who drew the controversial images of the Prophet Muhammad.

The offer, which made the front pages of Indian newspapers Saturday, was made by Mohammed Yaqoob Qureshi, a minister in the northern Uttar Pradesh state government, at a Muslim rally after Friday prayers.

Yaqoob told the crowd in Meerut, 400 km northwest of the state capital Lucknow, that he would give "the avenger" 510 million rupees ($11.5 million) and his weight in gold.

"Drawing a cartoon of the Prophet is blasphemous and Muslims will not tolerate this insult," he said in speech as demonstrators cried, "Death to France, Death to Denmark."

"The money will be paid by the people of Meerut," said Yaqoob, who is the state's minister in charge of minority affairs and the annual Hajj pilgrimage which Muslims undertake to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The government of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state and which has a large Muslim community, said the minister's statements were "his personal wish" and did not violate government rules.

But the influential All-Muslim Personal Law Board Muslims, an authoritative national body of Muslim clerics, slammed the reward as "anti-Islamic and antihumanity," the Indian Express newspaper reported.

The cartoons, drawn by 12 artists, were first published in Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten in September and later reprinted in a number of other mainly European dailies. They have sparked Muslim protests worldwide.

The minister did not specify any particular artist in his threat. *AFP*

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2N Hongkong w/ Oceanpark	3D/2N	153	Singapore + Malaysia Overland	6D/5N	393
Hongkong/ Shenzhen/ Macau	4D/3N	185	Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia + Brunei	5D/4N	399
Bangkok	4D/3N	205	Bkk/Sin/Hkg	7D/6N	458
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Bird flu lands in Egypt, likely has hit France

CAIRO—THE MOST DANGEROUS FORM OF bird flu was confirmed Friday in Egypt, the second African country hit after Nigeria, while France, Europe's largest poultry producer, said the rapidly-spreading H5N1 virus had probably also penetrated its borders.

Six cases, all involving poultry raised in private homes, have been detected in the greater Cairo area and one in the Minya region, 250 km south of the capital, said a government spokesperson.

Tests were also being carried out on chickens in the southern governate of Qena, where the popular tourist areas of Luxor and Thebes are located, after the mysterious deaths of some 130 birds of in a village there.

In Europe, French Agriculture Minister Dominique Bussereau said late Friday there was a "90 percent" chance that a dead wild duck found in the central-eastern Ain department was infected with the lethal strain of the virus. He added that the definite test result would be known by late Saturday or early Sunday.

In London, the likelihood that bird flu will reach Britain has grown, Animal Health Minister Ben Bradshaw said Friday.

"It is more likely now than it was, but it is not inevitable," said Bradshaw after the European Commission announced that it had been notified by France of a confirmed case of bird flu in a wild duck tested near Lyon.

"It's still only in wild birds. It hasn't been found in any poultry so far in EU countries this time," he told the BBC. "But clearly the closer it gets to us the risk grows. But the risk, according to vets, is still low."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said that consultation with experts had confirmed that the development—the closest reported case of bird flu to Britain—increased the chances of the disease crossing the Channel.

Meanwhile, a new case of H5N1 was confirmed Friday in Austria, Slovenia and Italy, while Germany admitted its 10 cases confirmed Thursday would most likely be followed by more.

H5N1 kills about half the humans it infects. Since 2003, just over 90 people, all of whom had come into direct contact with the carcasses of infected fowl, have died, most of them in China and Southeast Asia, but also in Iraq and eastern Turkey.

If the virus mutates into a form that can pass between humans, a global pandemic could ensue which experts have estimated could claim 142 million lives.

Even without a mutation, there remains a significant risk for people. The World Health Organization said Friday that Romania, with 31 affected villages where the bird flu virus is sweeping through poultry flocks in undeveloped rural areas with poor infrastructure, "runs the risk of human contamination at any moment."

Other European countries with confirmed outbreaks of H5N1 are: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Ukraine and Russia.

Aside from protecting people, a major priority in Europe is to stop avian influenza spreading from wild birds and devastating the continent's poultry industry.

Sales of chicken have already dropped across Europe.

Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Slovenia joined other European nations Friday by ordering all poultry kept indoors to ensure that domestic hens, ducks and geese do not come into contact with infected wild birds.

The other countries are Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg and Sweden.

The Netherlands went a step further and said it would seek authorization from the European Commission to vaccinate free-range poultry against avian flu, the agriculture ministry said Friday.

AFP, Reuters

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for:

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1.	Benguet	Mankayan Elementary School	Partial Construction of Two (2) Storey – Six (6) Classroom School Building	Php 5,790,000.00
2	Digos City	Digos Central Elementary School	Completion of Three Storey School Building (Right Wing)	Php 4,535,500.00
3	Cebu City	Talamban National High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	Php 14,606,266.50
		Inayawan Elementary School	Construction Four (4) Storey School Building	

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 2-10, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 9-17, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 9-17, 2006, DepED Central Office
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 3-13, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006 DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006, DepED Central Office
Eligibility Screening	March 14-16, 2006 DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006 DepED Central Office
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 17, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006, DepED Central Office
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 17, 2006, - April 17, 2006, DepED Central Office or CAR Regional Office	March 24, 2006 - May 2, 2006, DepEd Central Office or Regional Office No. XI, F. Torres St., Davao City	March 24, 2006-May 8, 2006, DepEd Central Office or Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006, 10:00 AM CAR Regional Office Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	April 18, 2006, 10:00 AM Regional Office No. XI, F. Torres St., Davao City	April 26, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 18, 2006, 10:00 AM CAR Regional Office Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	May 3, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. XI F. Torres St., Davao City	May 9, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at DepEd Central Office, BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
BAC Vice Chairperson

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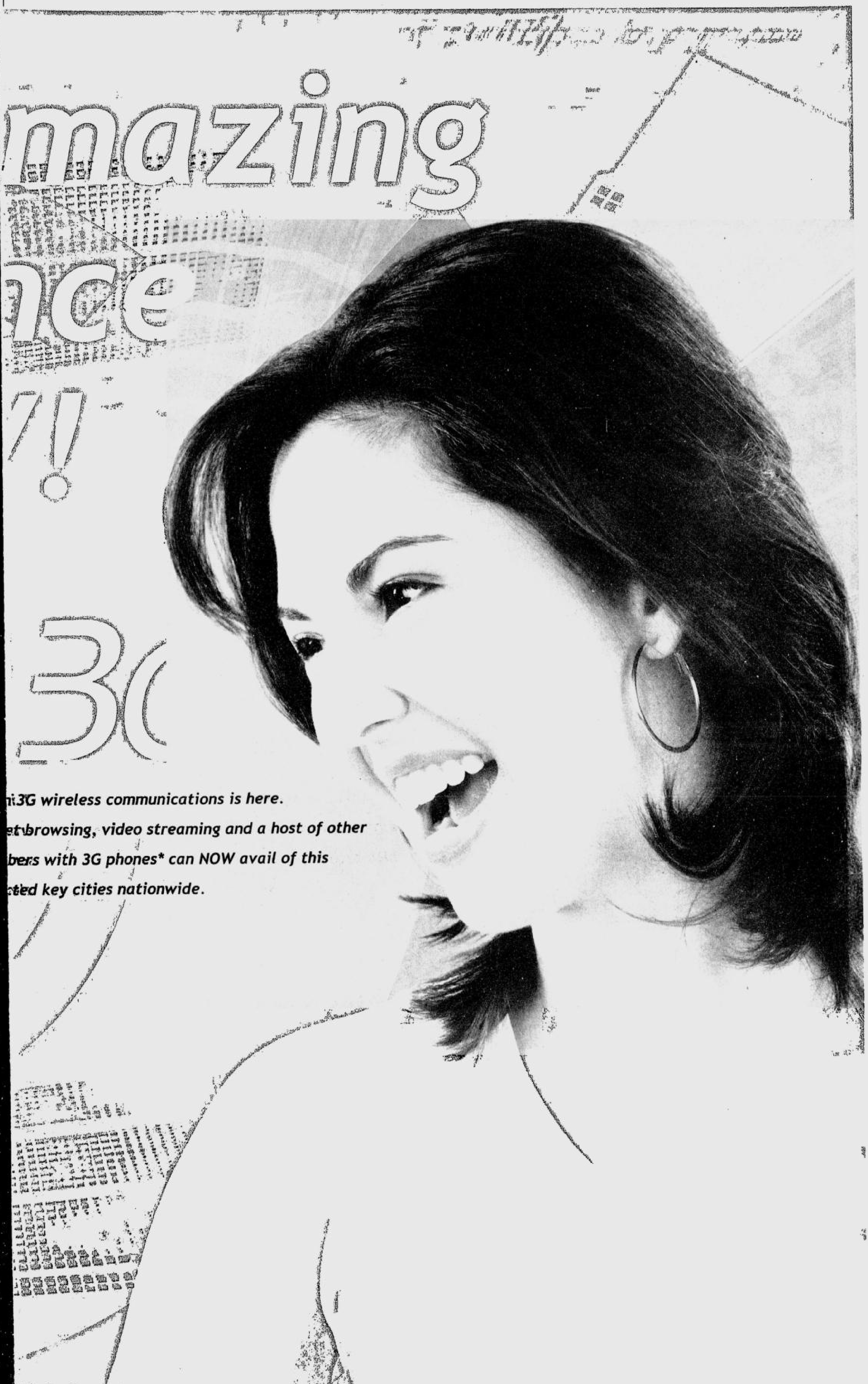

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OPINION

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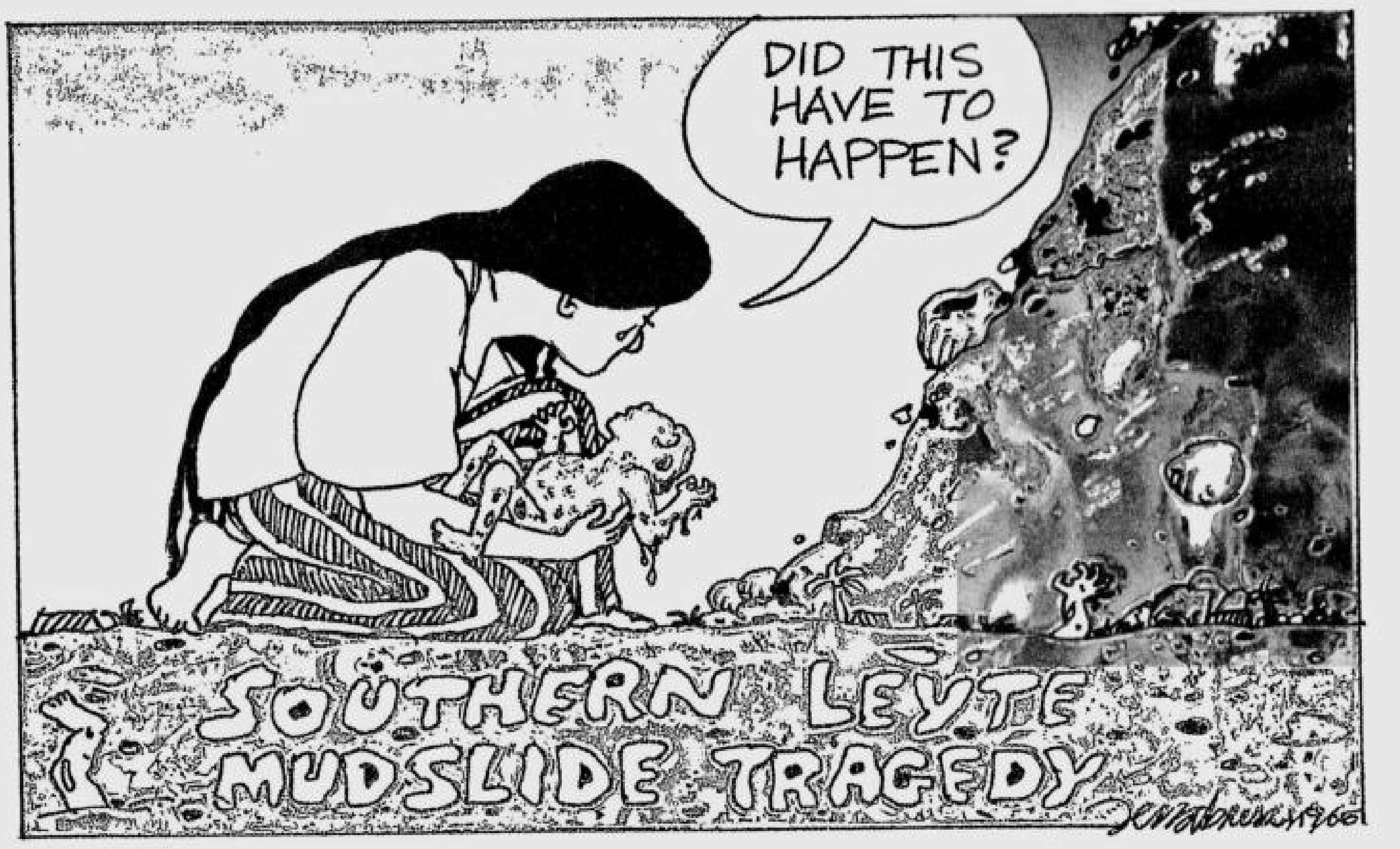

Dirty doublespeak

EDITORIAL

THE IDEA OF LETTING DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada off the hook, so to speak, has been floated again, and by the usual suspects. This time, the idea has the imprimatur of President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

The President's new chief of staff, Secretary Michael Defensor, announced on Thursday the apparent result of separate negotiations involving three influential religious leaders: Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu, Executive Minister Eraño Manalo of the Iglesia ni Cristo, and El Shaddai's Brother Mike Velarde. "The three leaders are willing to guarantee [that] Estrada is not a flight risk and that he would be placed under their recognizance," Defensor said.

In the event that the Sandiganbayan grants temporary freedom to Estrada, who is facing unprecedented (and non-bailable) plunder charges, the three religious leaders would act as his guarantors, Defensor said.

Then came Doublespeak Item No. 1. "There's no personal or vested interest in this. [It] is for the national interest," Defensor said, earnestly.

We have no doubt that Vidal and the other leaders sincerely believe that granting Estrada a respite from detention, ostensibly to prepare for his oral testimony, serves the national interest. But we are equally certain that their belief is entirely misplaced.

The national interest will be served if the first-ever plunder trial of a former commander in chief proceeded apace, if the proceedings are vested with transparency and conducted with independence, and if sooner rather than later, a credible judgment is handed down, based on the evidence.

But a blithe disregard of the rule of law? A breathtaking lack of concern about the independence of the judiciary? Not least, a distorted understanding of the uses of recognizance? None of this serves the national interest.

When asked, Defensor explained Malacañang's renewed interest in what he called reconciliation efforts with Estrada with a firmly forked tongue. Doublespeak Item No. 2: The Palace has become more active in pursuing "humanitarian" treatment for Estrada, he said, because "the hardliners are not in government anymore."

Defensor was referring to the Hyatt 10, of course, the senior officials who resigned on July 8 and called on the President to resign the same day. But his use of "hardliners" to refer to the likes of Dinky Soliman and Butch Abad is chillingly Orwellian. The President's loyalist-in-residence described those who oppose any special treatment for Estrada on the basis of principle as stubborn and recalcitrant, obstructionists of the worst kind. The assumption, of course, is that those who welcome special treatment for Estrada on the basis of expediency—like, say, Defensor himself, who has acted as the broker of the idea—are veritable statesmen.

Defensor even had the temerity to blame civil society leaders, from whose ranks many of the Hyatt 10 emerged, for Estrada's arrest five years ago. It was "also their idea," Defensor said, dismissively, as though the very notion of arresting a man charged with plunder was beneath contempt.

Defensor also defended the timing of the latest reconciliation initiative. Malacañang, he said, in Doublespeak Item No. 3, was "talking with [the Estrada camp] from a position of strength."

Nonsense. The latest attempt to woo Estrada, and the still substantial bloc of voters he commands, is in fact proof that the Arroyo administration is desperate to consolidate its position. Because its very mandate remains under question, the administration is forced to play politics on almost every front.

In other words, the latest initiative to reach out to Estrada is driven by presidential self-interest. Not even Defensor's famously flexible speaking skills can completely hide the fact.

"What we're saying is that for the interest of all, let's have some peace," he said in Filipino in a radio interview. It is necessary, he then added, that "this problem ... be set aside."

He seemed to be alluding to Estrada's continuing detention, but does anyone doubt what he was in truth referring to? Malacañang is after the "closure" that it says it already won, but which in fact continues to elude it.

The judgment on EO No. 464

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CHALLENGE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 464 was filed on Oct. 11, 2005, but to date, more than four months later, the novel and important constitutional question raised in the case remains unresolved. The prayer for a temporary restraining order against the operation of the Order has not been granted by the Supreme Court, which has thus allowed in the meantime the prohibition of members of the Cabinet and other executive officials appearing before any legislative investigation without the permission of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Senate has complained against the Order, which has stalemated all its investigations of the activities of the executive department, including the Garci tapes controversy and the allegedly illegal disbursement of the P728 fertilizer fund for GMA's election campaign last year. Norberto Gonzales, earlier held in contempt by the chamber, is back in the Cabinet where he cannot be further questioned about the curious lobbying contract he signed with the Venable lawyers. Their exorbitant retainer was paid, not by the government as he defensively declared, but by certain anonymous donors he refused to identify.

Last week, President Arroyo relaxed her Order and allowed her subordinates to appear at the budget hearings in the Senate. The INQUIRER headlined that she blinked on her all-inclusive ban, but Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was quick to protest that she had not retreated from her earlier stance and was still enforcing her prohibition in all other legislative investigations of the executive department.

Let me recall the usual conduct of a case before the Supreme Court based on some procedural practices during my time that are probably still being observed by the present justices. Following is my recollection of the proceedings of the high tribunal on the study, deliberation and decision of important constitutional questions like the pending petition against Executive Order No. 464.

A petition earlier classified as an *en banc* case is raffled to one of the 15 members of the Court, who determines at the outset, with the assistance of court processors, if the party seeking judicial relief has employed the proper remedy under the Rules of Court, and on time. These requirements having been satisfied, the assigned justice will make a preliminary study of the case to determine if it is sufficient in form and substance to deserve the further attention of the Court.

If this test is also passed, the Court will, on his recommendation, order the respondent to file a Comment on the petition within a period of 10 days that will automatically be extended if moved by the Solicitor General. The Comment will eventually be filed, usually after additional extensions for various excuses. The Court will then tell or allow the petitioner to file a Reply, which, if the parties are especially belligerent (or verbose), will be countered with a Rejoinder that will be rebutted, although not often, with a Sur-Rejoinder. All these are done in deference to due process, and also to give the future *ponente* an opportunity to relax while the lawyers are still quarreling.

An important feature of the procedure is the Oral Argument, where the parties are asked to amplify the arguments they have already discussed in their previous pleadings. More importantly, they will be interrogated by the justices, some to ask serious questions and others to merely exhibit their pretensions to juristic erudition. The hearings are concluded before lunch time to relieve the hunger pangs of the highly-paid contending counsel, the Court requiring them to submit memoranda within the non-extendible period of 15 days. When these final pleadings are duly filed, the case will then be ready for decision, which must be rendered within a period of 24 months as required by the Constitution.

Back now to EO 464, there is the suspicion shared by many people that its decision has been inordinately delayed because of the embarrassment it may cause President Arroyo if her prohibition is declared unconstitutional. On the other hand, the independence of the Supreme Court may be faulted if it decides to sustain the Order despite the doctrine of separation of powers. Significantly or not, the majority of the justices owe GMA their appointments to the high tribunal.

The best and most practical solution to the constitutional dilemma will be to persuade the President to withdraw her Order and thus make the pending petition moot and academic. The question is, will she agree to humble herself before Congress and the nation or will she take her chances on the decision of the Supreme Court?

The Oral Argument is scheduled on Feb. 21, and the Decision is expected at last to be rendered soon after that date. But "soon" may be as long as two years from next Tuesday, during which EO No. 464 will continue to operate against the power of legislative investigation.

N.B. Re my column of 2/12/06, Carlos Esteban Jr. says the word "malaria" was derived from the Italian "mala aria," not the Spanish "mala aire." My mistake, and thanks for the correction.

Spreading the light

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT TWO COACHES who happened to sit beside each other inside a church during Mass, obviously praying for victory in the championship game that their opposing basketball teams were going to contest. After Mass, one of the coaches lighted a candle before the image of St. Michael. The other coach, nervous that the lighted candle will give his rival coach's team an edge over his, walked back to the church. Seeing that his rival coach was gone, guess what he did? He lit another candle? No, he blew out the candle!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 2, 1-12), after Jesus cured the paralytic brought down from the roof by four men, one would think that all the people who witnessed the miracle would all be praises for Him, but no. There were the kill joy and the self-righteous scribes who, in the face of an amazing event, raised questions on doctrine and, so to say, blew out the candle! They missed the point by a mile because they were blinded by their selfish agenda, malice and envy.

* * *

There are people who, instead of seeing the whole doughnut, insist on seeing the hole in the doughnut. These are people who always focus on the glass half-empty, instead of focusing on the glass half-full. When you take a look at your life, do you appreciate your blessings, or do you always miserably concentrate on the what-ifs and the could-have-beens? Count your blessings! Not many blessings? Count again!

* * *

Edsa I was one shining moment for us Filipinos. The whole world stopped, looked and listened to us as a country and as a people. But how many of us stop, look and listen to Edsa I now? That is because, like the scribes, we are a people divided by our own selfish agendas and interests. Literally, we blow out each other's candles, and we keep pulling each other downwards.

* * *

Four men helped carry the paralytic. Who will help carry our paralyzed nation? Our leaders? They who are supposed to serve us have in effect enslaved us. Having said that, all of us must say "*mea culpa*" because all of us have, in one way or another, contributed and continue to contribute to the suffering of our country and our people.

* * *

We take time out today to remember and to be grateful to the many unknown heroes who have kept our country afloat all these years. These are the men and women who have sacrificed life and limb, career and future for the sake of truth and justice. These are the heroes whose names are not found in news reports but are written in the Book of Life.

* * *

We also take time out today to remember and be grateful to the people who have helped carry us to the Lord. We travel not alone. We have fellow travelers and fellow pilgrims along the way, on our way to God. We are all supposed to help each other, and no brother or sister should be heavy, and none of us should be too busy.

* * *

In my weekly Radio Program "Hello Father" at Radio Veritas (846 AM Band) every 8 p.m. on Mondays, I get lots of calls from children. How wonderful to hear these little angels who are so innocent and honest. Last week, a 6-year-old boy asked, live on air, for prayers for his father to come back to their family so that his mother would stop crying. One time, a little girl asked for prayers for her father to stop beating up her mother. These and many more heartbreaking stories should remind us adults how much we can affect the little ones. Big people have big responsibilities. To whom much is given, much is also required! What sort of example are we giving and what values are we leaving unto them?

* * *

"No love, no friendship can ever cross our paths without affecting us in some way forever." How true. The same with selfishness and untruthfulness which affect others negatively. In this world of darkness and light, are you an agent of evil, or are you an agent of goodness? Are you a candle blower or candle lighter? "It is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness." Let's all keep in mind that one candle power is better than zero candle power.

* * *

A friend sent me a text message: "For a change, when you read the newspaper, turn to the sports page first, for they record people's accomplishments; the front page has nothing but man's failures." I texted back and told him not to forget to read the obituary page for it tells the true and final story about every person. We all were born. We all will die. May it be said of us that we have spread the light and have made this world a brighter place because we passed by.

* * *

An invitation for those who care for the sick and elderly to a seminar on "Caregiver burnout" at the Janssen Hall in Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City. The seminar will be held on Feb. 25, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For more details please contact Adele Joaquin 09174167849 or adele@info.com.ph

* * *

See you at the alumni homecoming of San Sebastian College on Feb. 25, 2006. The affair will start with a Mass at 5:30 p.m. For more details please call 7335098.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to spread the light as I pass by. Amen.

The life and times of the Class of 1956

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ON APRIL 1, 1952, THE HEADLINE OF THE Manila Times daily was: "House to Probe Plane Crash." A few days earlier, a Philippine Airlines DC-3 crashed near the Baguio Airport killing 10 of its passengers. The story read: "A congressional investigation of the PAL disaster was ordered by the House with Speaker Eugenio Perez forming a special probe committee to look into the crash. Working independently of this body is the Appropriations Committee under Rep. Ramon Arnaldo which is also looking into the tragedy."

While the nation's attention was focused on this tragic event, some 80 young men, aged 17 to 21, were being given the traditional warm and noisy welcome at Loakan on the outskirts of Baguio City, new site of the Philippine Military Academy. The place, which later would be christened Fort del Pilar, was still a desolate, one-building affair—a location where, probably, only fools would wish to spend a considerable time of their lives. To this day, for some reason, new cadets entering the PMA have always been received on April Fools' Day.

The group of 80 would form the Class of 1956. Since the political and economic elites of the country showed little enthusiasm for the military as a career, most of the class came from the middle class. Many were products of provincial high schools, with a few coming from either UST or UP High. All were chosen by merit rather than connections, and many would cite the free education as the main reason for their joining the academy. In the years spent as cadets, there would never be any questions over the idea of civil supremacy or of a subordinate role for the military in the life of the nation.

The commander in chief then, Elpidio Quirino, was an Ilocano from Ilocos Sur. In 1952, his administration was wracked by charges of corruption, injustice and electoral fraud—the same issues that the country continues to face today. But history would be kind to Quirino. He would be remembered as one of our best.

In 1953, the nation would have a new commander in chief, another Ilocano, the hugely popular and beloved Ramon Magsaysay. In a landslide—some people called it a "Landsdale" victory—Magsaysay won over his opponent by a margin of close to a million votes. The New York Times praised the electoral process with President Eisenhower commenting: "This is the way we like to see an election carried out." For the members of Class 1956, it really didn't mean much as far as our daily lives were concerned. We stayed focused on getting through the heavy academic work load and keeping physically fit for the months ahead. We never saw Quirino or Magsaysay on the field of Fort del Pilar. It seemed as though the Academy was a world apart from politics and politicians, and perhaps that is how things should have remained.

* * *

Only 51 members would survive the PMA obstacle course, and April 4, 1956, they would be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In 1956, the nation was at war with the Hukbalahaps or Huks, a peasant guerrilla army hardened by combat against the Japanese. With a large mass base and a substantial armed component, it represented a formidable enemy for the AFP. Because of this serious threat against the government, Magsaysay decreed that all the new PMA graduates be sent to the field—particularly in the southern Tagalog region—against the Huks. As a result, instead of joining their choice of branch of service, the members of the class were fielded as platoon leaders in battalion combat teams (BCT), the main maneuvering element of the army in those days. In defeating the Huks and as guardians of electoral polls, the armed forces won a reputation for professionalism and integrity. Magsaysay would also draw the military into civil administration. Perhaps, it was the first time some political involvement crept into the lives of soldiers who were basically imbued with an apolitical sense of professionalism. The martial law years would change this outlook and things would never be the same again.

The Manila Times headline on April 4, 1956 was: "Magsaysay meets Taipei threat." The story referred to obstacles being put up by the Taipei government against the deportation of 2,400 overstaying Chinese. After 50 years, I am certain all 2,400 are still with us, and many more coming in.

* * *

Thirty years after graduation, on April 4, 1986, under the country's first woman President, the bulk of the class would retire from military service. Many had served in high positions in the military organization while others contributed their expertise and talents to civil administration and national policy development—a far cry from the subjects taught in the classrooms of Fort del Pilar. In the Edsa Revolution which took place a few months earlier, the class found itself deeply divided with some serving under AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver up to the end, while others joined the rebel group of Gen. Fidel Ramos and Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile at Camp Crame. Today, the class is also split with some supporting GMA and others calling for her to step down.

Yesterday, for the last time, the corps of cadets paid a final salute with a parade and review honoring the Academy's golden jubilarians. It marked 50 years of a life mostly spent in the service of the nation.

Learning from disasters

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A MILD TREMOR WAS SUPPOSEDLY FELT JUST before a mudslide buried Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte. But the geologists and seismologists who were interviewed were quick to dismiss speculations that this might have caused the earth to tumble down the slopes of the nearby mountain.

Weather experts said it was more likely caused by days of unusually heavy rainfall, which softened the soil and destabilized it, to the point that tons of mud and rocks slid suddenly down the mountainside, burying the village of some 2,000-3,000 people.

Environmentalists have long stressed the need to maintain the country's existing forest cover, which has been steadily disappearing—despite decades of awareness-raising and official lip service. Landslides are only one of the many threats arising from denudation and deforestation. In fact, one of the striking things about the news footage taken of the disaster site was the lack of trees on the surrounding mountainsides, save for a few stands of coconut trees which were easily swept away by the moving soil and debris.

Another report quotes officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who said Southern Leyte had already been identified as a "priority geo-hazard area." Local government officials have supposedly been notified about the places most at risk due to the heavy rains in recent weeks and advised to start evacuating the residents.

This only provides cold comfort to the officials and the folk of St. Bernard, of course. But the scramble to produce hazard maps, identify areas at risk and evacuate residents in the riskiest villages could at least ensure that no tragedy, at least of this scale, would occur again in the near future.

* * *

AMONG THE STRUCTURES buried in the mudslide was a "packed" elementary school which, aside from the students and teachers in the classrooms, was also filled with an assembly of women meeting to plan out activities for "Women's Month," which takes place in March.

A friend based in Southern Leyte estimates that some 80 women were gathered at the barangay school, sounding the call for "anything that will be of use" in response to queries on what they need at the moment.

Of course, the national government, the Red Cross and other relief agencies and various private organizations, including foreign governments, have already mobilized and sent relief goods and rehabilitation funds to help the victims of this disaster. Perhaps the most poignant of the items listed by the rescuers was the request for body bags, to accommodate the growing number of corpses being retrieved from the site. The latest report quotes rescue workers complaining about the stench from the village.

But we will best honor those who died in the mudslide by making sure that the right lessons are learned from this disaster. Whether or not deforestation had anything to do with the mudslide, and whether local government officials had enough advance notice (giving them the opportunity to reduce the number of fatalities), there's still time to protect our remaining forest cover—with a logging ban if necessary—as well as to evacuate people living in areas most at risk of similar disasters.

* * *

SPEAKING of disasters, here's a brief report from the local office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on another disaster—the Semirara oil spill.

The massive oil spill took place last Dec. 18 after a Napocor power barge ran aground in rough seas. An estimated 355,000 liters of bunker, fuel contaminated 71 of the 236 hectares of mangrove forests on Semirara island in Antique, endangering the marine life in the area, and putting at risk the livelihood of the residents, most of them small fishermen. The oil spill also threatens nearby coastlines, including Boracay, a major tourist attraction, and the Visayan Sea, a major fishery area, and perhaps even the Sulu Sea. "The damage to habitats that sustain people's lives and livelihoods may have only just begun," says the report.

Though it is "a race against time," the WWF says the cleanup is proceeding slowly mainly because of the lack of personnel and equipment.

WWF, in collaboration with the Foundation for the Philippine Environment and the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, is mustering funds to utilize Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to map out the extent of the damage to coastal and marine habitats, and to monitor the movement of the oil slick, says the report. At the current rate, the coastal cleanup may take from six to 12 months.

"The important scientific information generated through satellite imagery will be essential to plan out a swift, comprehensive and responsive solution to the crisis that faces this island," the WWF asserts.

"In the end, the issues are not simply mangrove forests, seagrass or coral reefs. The gut issue is food, water and income. The people of Semirara need our assistance now. Your support or aid will be gratefully received."

* * *

RESIDENTS of Alaminos, Pangasinan, as well as their families and friends, are invited to help raise funds for "Alaminos 100," a group of concerned individuals with roots in Alaminos, by attending a dance-concert next Saturday, Feb. 25.

The dance-concert, featuring The Replay Band, will be held at the Tejeros Hall of the AFP Officers' Club in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Saya...One Na!", as the affair has been billed, has been launched to raise funds for the various projects undertaken by "Alaminos 100" for the benefit of their hometown. Tickets at P500 each are available at the gate or may be purchased from any member of "Alaminos 100."

The military in politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

EVERY TIME WE ALLOW POLITICIANS TO STEAL elections with impunity, to rule without accountability, to rob the public coffers routinely, and to lie brazenly—we are creating the conditions for military intervention. Professional armies go hand in hand with strong democracies. We are not a strong democracy; that is why the temptation to play the military card remains strong. Yet, even in the most desperate circumstances, there is no assurance that the public will automatically welcome military intervention. Much depends on the clarity with which the military defines the provisional extraordinary role it claims for itself, as well as on the trust that the people are willing to repose on their soldiers. Trust is earned.

The military is shaped by the contingencies of its own history. The formative contexts are different for each society—every army has to find its place in the evolving life of the nation, shedding off some functions and practices inherited from its colonial past, and developing new ones suitable to the changing needs of the nation. The Indonesian case shows this clearly.

The Indonesian armed forces or ABRI sprang from the victorious revolutionary forces that fought the Dutch. Indonesia's army is celebrated as the midwife of the free Indonesian nation. It was logical for its leaders to assume major roles in the political administration of the country. It was also natural for them to be rewarded with the management of the economic enterprises taken over from the Dutch. Throughout its history, the Indonesian military occupied a privileged place in the country's economy and political administration. Until recently, the military was given reserved seats in parliament. But, under a democratizing Indonesia, military officials have been stripped of their political and administrative roles. They cannot be parliamentarians or government officials so long as they are in the military service. The pendulum has swung to the other side, although people are wondering how long it can be kept there. From the moment of the establishment of the Indonesian nation, the military was the only organization that could perform the functions of political administration. That fact cannot be reversed overnight.

We have a much greater chance of achieving professionalism in our military than Indonesia. The Philippine military has had longer practice as a professional army subordinate to civilian authority. Running a state is not part of its traditions. It is not saddled by a triumphalist past that entitles it to a privileged place in the administration of the nation.

But this is also its weakness. Having been formed as a colonial army, it has no heroes. After the grant of independence, it fought on the side of the new native rulers, defending the social order of wealth and property against the sporadic protests of the exploited and landless masses. The pantheon of our people's folk heroes is filled with rebels and guerrillas who fought foreign oppressors. There is no place in it for any of the uniformed men of the Philippine Constabulary. In many places of the country, the military is still viewed as an invading force.

The uniformed personnel of our Armed Forces probably occupy the lowest rungs of the public service, not only in pay and benefits, but also in social esteem. In our kind of society, which places a high premium on the white collar professions, to be a soldier is not one of those messages that hopeful parents whisper into the ears of their children. There is no money in being a soldier, unless you are corrupt. No status in it, unless you are among the few who went to the Philippine Military Academy. And no future in it, unless you have a political patron. Indeed, our society does not give our soldiers even the modest recognition and respect they deserve. But that is mainly because the government itself treats them shabbily, sending them out like dispensable foot soldiers to clean up the mess created by the nation's politicians. Simply upgrading the situation of the ordinary enlisted man—his training, his equipment, his education, and living condition—could produce radical changes in the image of the military profession.

There is a consciousness shift, however. A new generation of professionally-trained officers who know their history can no longer tolerate the kind of roles they are made to play by corrupt politicians in an unjust social order. They take to heart the Constitution's definition of their role as "protector of the people." Their increasing politicization has made them skeptical of the principle of supremacy of civilian authority, especially where civilian authority rules on the basis of a questionable mandate. Constantly admonished by their superior officers not to involve themselves in political questions, they point an accusing finger at them, telling them of the brazen way in which they allow the organization to be used for partisan purposes during elections. This lies at the heart of the political activism of the young officer corps.

The observation of Professor S.E. Finer, author of the classic "The Man on Horseback: The Role of the Military in Politics," goes into the heart of the matter: "Instead of asking why the military engage in politics, we ought to ask why they ever do otherwise." The opportunity to convert superior organization and arms into political power is always there. The problem is not how to prevent soldiers from entertaining the thought, but how to build a modern political system that would make military intervention inconceivable.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Close range

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I HAD EVERY INTENTION OF WRITING A REVIEW AFTER I saw Studio 23's "Brokeback Mountain" premiere last week, but it's hard to write a review when you don't have an opinion. I had nothing to say (an event that occurs less often than a leap year), and my attempt produced a grand total of two three-sentence paragraphs.

When the lights went up in the theater, I turned to my friend Neeks, the girl who has her books catalogued in her laptop, who thinks Nietzsche's theories are common conversation fare, and who can argue the social significance of a piece of cheese.

"So," I asked, "Did you like it?"

"Uh. I was hoping you had an opinion, so I could agree with you."

The next morning, I still had nothing to say.

According to Aristotle, the purpose of drama is to arouse in the audience feelings of pity and fear, then purge these feelings. Watching "Brokeback Mountain" was like watching the Twin Towers burning—you know it's tragic, but you can't help but watch. In the end, I felt—sappy as it sounds—empty but exhilarated. Aristotle would have been proud of Ang Lee.

Their story is an old one—one where two improbable people meet, fall in love and find out they can never be together. Based on the short story by Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain" is a love story. The fact that the lovers involved are two rifle-toting cowboys herding sheep in the wilds of Wyoming makes it no less a love story.

There have been dozens of stories of forbidden love that have graced the silver screen. Romeo and Juliet were star-crossed lovers separated by an "ancient grudge." Class discrimination provides the conflict in classics like "My Fair Lady," "Rebel Without a Cause," "Titanic," "Grease" and "Pretty Woman."

Today's times provides "Brokeback Mountain" a modern context for forbidden love, through one of the last bastions of social discrimination: homosexuality. The bigotry is just as alive today as it was in 1950s Wyoming, sometimes emanating from the pulpit, sometimes egged on by mockery, other times as a way to boost male machismo. "Brokeback Mountain" is the first mainstream homosexual movie that does not poke fun at gay culture.

Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) is the strong, silent type, a man who shows little and says much less. Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) is the ambitious, outgoing dreamer who dreams of becoming a rodeo champion. They are sent up to Brokeback Mountain, in charge of a thousand sheep. One cold night, too cold for Ennis to watch over the sheep, the attraction that involved no more than a few smiles and snatched looks exploded into a fiery (and strangely macho) sex scene. I won't deny I wasn't shocked, because I was. The scene had half the audience turning away and squirming uncomfortably, but I had to watch. There was something gripping about the rawness and resistance, the intense masculinity coupled with tenderness.

Ennis marries Alma, played beautifully by Michelle Williams of "Dawson's Creek" fame. They have two children, and scrape along trying to make both ends meet. Jack marries Lureen (Anne Hathaway of "Princess Diaries"), if not for her looks and personality, at least, for her rich daddy's money.

Four years later, Jack returns, and their meeting is simply what it is: long-lost lovers finally able to look, to see, to touch. In Annie Proulx's short story, they "seized each other and hugged mightily," and then they kissed, "as easily as the right key turns the lock tumblers." And in the story as well as in the movie, the door opens, and Alma sees her husband locking lips with the cowboy he later calls his "fishin' buddy."

Only once, at the very beginning, does Jack venture to talk about his dreams. "If you and me had a little ranch together, little cow and calf operation…it'd be some sweet life." Ennis' "no" puts an end to it. Society will never allow it. "I goddamn hate it that you're going to drive home in the morning and I'm goin' back to work. But if you can't fix it you gotta stand it."

And so they stand it. The movie tracks 20 years in the lives of Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, 20 years of "fishing trips" and "hunting trips," and the long, long waits in between.

It's a movie that moves slowly and will have you so drained by the end that there is no room for tears. The acting is subtle, sincere and superb. There's a lot of silences, little dialogue and a wealth of emotions in a single look. Both women are amazing, particularly Michelle Williams' portrayal of the wounded Alma—although I'll admit that it took some doing to reconcile my idea of Anne Hathaway with the aggressive Lureen onscreen (I think one of my friends summarizes it best: "Oh my God, it's Princess Mia's boobs!")

"Brokeback Mountain" has been nominated for Best Picture, Best Director (Ang Lee), Best Actor (Heath Ledger), Best Supporting Actor (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Best Supporting Actress (Michelle Williams). Whether or not the movie rakes in the awards is still in the stars—although it's rumored that Best Director is in the bag—but one thing is certain: The Oscars nod is a concession that Hollywood, at the very least, has taken the step that theater has long ago taken. Homosexuality exists, and it's about time we accept it. If it's true that movies have a legitimizing effect on society, then three cheers to Ang Lee. "Brokeback" shows a homosexual relationship that is suffused in both passion and human emotion, not merely lust.

It's a love story where nobody says "I love you," but unlike in every other movie that does, you know they do without their having to say it.

Some say that "Brokeback" is just an ordinary movie with an unlikely pair, over-hyped by the fact it's socially relevant. If Jack were a girl, there's nothing to it.

I agree—the fact that it is socially relevant makes it powerful and gives it an edge over other similar, but more conventional, movies. However, I think that in itself, "Brokeback" is a moving story, and its brave use of social realities makes it no less than what it is. Homosexuals are discriminated, men do fall in love, and sheep are the ugliest critters in the face of the planet.

Maybe, in 1950s Wyoming, you really can't fix it. Although discrimination does exist in the 21st century, things are a lot better than they were. In Spain and several other countries, gay marriage is legal, and here, although homosexuality might pull in a few laughs, discrimination is frowned upon by most reasonable-minded folk.

I like to think that in the here and now, since you can fix it, you don't have to stand it.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

What I did in the 1986 People Power Revolution

(Editor's Note: Except for a couple of paragraphs excluded here because of space constraints, the article of Jose Almonte, who is sometimes referred to by the media as the father of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, is his complete written account of his role in Edsa 1. The manuscript he submitted to "Talk of the Town" is part of a book project initiated by RAM leader Gringo Honasan for the 20th anniversary of the "people power revolution.")

By Jose T. Almonte

HISTORY IS THE RECORD OF THE FASCINATING contingencies that have produced the present. Determinists may regard "history" as an autonomous process unfolding a predetermined future, in accordance with laws that humankind cannot amend. But, through the people, individuals of character can change the way nations evolve. That I came to realize through my participation in the mutiny of young officers in the Philippine military, which set off the epochal "People Power" Revolution of February 1986.

Born to a poor family in Albay, I had taken the only road toward a good education open to young men of my social class. I became a professional soldier, finishing at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1956. In accordance with President Ramon Magsaysay's directive to assign all new graduates to field units, I was sent off to lead a platoon on the mountainous Laguna-Quezon border during the last years of the Huk rebellion.

That platoon turned out to be my only "field command" during more than 30 years of military service. One day, while I was bathing in a nearby stream, my platoon—aggrieved about field mismanagement—shot up the company headquarters. Instead of being court-martialed for command responsibility of the mutiny (as I had asked), I was dispatched to the Philippine Army School Command in what was then Fort McKinley, to join the only specialist course then available: combat intelligence.

That singular event defined my professional military career. It also opened my eyes to the realities and consequences of military mismanagement in the field. After I joined the Reform the-Armed Forces Movement (RAM) in the late '70s, I found, to my dismay, that the young officers who organized it were motivated by the same grievances that had moved my platoon to mutiny. And, sad to say, the same grievances launched the Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

With Philcag in Vietnam

Ferdinand Marcos' rise to the presidency coincided with the beginning of the American intervention in the Vietnamese civil war. To show their venture was that of all the freedom-loving peoples of the world, the Americans cobbled together a coalition that came to include, among others, the Australians, the South Koreans, the Thais and the Filipinos.

Pressed by Washington to put his troops where his mouth was, Marcos agreed to send a token force to Vietnam: it was later rumored that an off-budget gift from the Americans had helped to persuade him. But, fearing the effect of Filipino casualties on his plans for reelection in 1969, Marcos sent a noncombatant group of engineers and civic-action troops.

By then a captain, I formed part of an initial three-man team that prepared the ground for the advance party led by then Major Fidel V. Ramos. The Philippine Civic Action Group (Philcag) was assigned to Tay Ninh Province, in the southwestern part of South Vietnam. Our expeditionary force of 2,000 men was made up of medical and engineering troops, as well as a security battalion.

I served three years with Philcag, instead of the usual one year. Unlike the Koreans, we were able to keep our casualties down. When I was rotated home in 1969, I was reassigned to the Palace, to work with Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor.

Martial law

Like myself, Melchor was dismayed by martial law. Significantly, he was excluded from the "Rolex 12" officials who helped Marcos impose it. But, on Marcos' behest, we both stayed on, in the hope of building on the political stability and social order that martial law was able, initially, to organize.

But, as authoritarian rule took hold, the near-absolute power that the Marcos family exercised—more and more capriciously—began to take its unavoidable toll. The straightforward and well-meaning Melchor lost out to those in the Palace who sowed intrigues. Eventually, Marcos was persuaded to close down the Executive Secretary's office, abolishing Melchor's position. I was retained by Marcos, over the objection of General Fabian Ver, in the graduate school of the University of the Philippines, where I headed a Center for Advanced Studies. Before long, I had come to conclude that Marcos and his family had become a plague on the Filipino nation.

Joining RAM

By then, disillusionment with strongman rule was widespread. Not only had the rural insurgency of the "New People's Army" guerrillas spread from the traditional centers of agrarian dissidence in Central Luzon to the Visayas and Mindanao. In the Muslim communities of the Southern Philippines, a separatist rebellion was raging. I soon began hearing of the grievances of field commanders in Mindanao and Sulu over the neglect of troops in the field and, particularly, of the lack of care for their wounded.

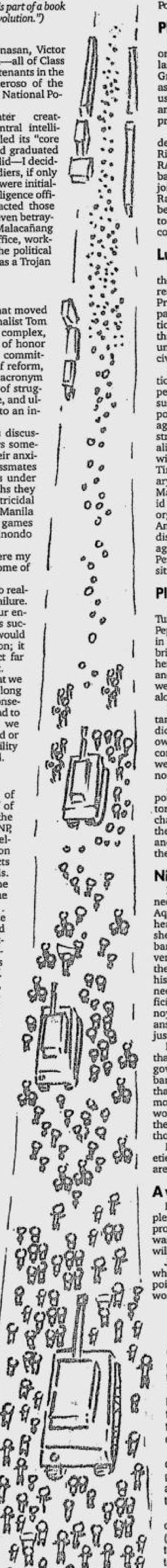
Foot-soldiers were being short-changed even on their food and clothing allowances. Weapons and ammunition were always in short supply. At the height of the fighting, the Moro National Liberation Front rebels were often better-armed than the soldiers of the republic. Because evacuation facilities were so limited, wounded soldiers who could otherwise be saved would die. And standing by helplessly while a comrade bled to death is always a bitter experience for any soldier—because fighting side by side and suffering together bind them closer than brothers.

Meanwhile, many of the generals and flag officers had been corrupted by the regime and, in the eyes of their juniors, no longer deserved their loyalty and obedience. "An entire AFP generation above us," the RAM mutineers proclaimed memorably, has failed "to respond to a moral crisis."

In fact, a group of veterans from the Mindanao-Sulu campaign—most of them from PMA Class '71—had begun actively to think of doing something to restore the honor of the military.

Eventually, most of the aggrieved junior officers were brought under the leadership of their upperclassmen. The most senior of these were Lt. Colonels Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, Victor Batac, and Eduardo "Red" Kapunan—all of Class '71. But there were a number of lieutenants in the group, among them Diosdado Valeroso of the Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police (PC/INP).

The organization they later created—acronymed RAM—had no central intelligence, but it was these three who led its "core group." Although much older—I had graduated from the PMA 15 years before they did—I decided to join these idealistic young soldiers, if only to serve their coffee. Naturally, they were initially suspicious. Not only was I an intelligence officer—a posting that has often attracted those who thrive on secrecy, intrigue and even betrayal. I had also spent many years in Malacañang Palace, in the dictator's executive office, working with Melchor, whom many in the political and military elite regarded unfairly as a Trojan horse for the Americans.



What RAM fought for

Reporting on the compulsions that moved the RAM rebels, the American journalist Tom Marks wrote: "Their motives are complex, but stem principally from a sense of honor betrayed, and frustration at being committed to a war that, in the absence of reform, was bound to be endless." As its acronym suggests, RAM represents an idea of struggle to reform the military, the police, and ultimately the nation, to put an end to an indeterminate internal wars.

Through our seemingly endless discussions, some of these young officers somehow made me the repository of their anxieties. They told me of the PMA classmates they lost, of the deaths of soldiers under their care, and of the peasant youths they had to kill in what they saw as a fratricidal war, even while the politicians in Manila continued to play their factional games and businessmen in Makati and Binondo amassed fortunes.

I was far less optimistic than were my youthful comrades about the outcome of our movement.

As our plans matured, we came to realize how real was the possibility of failure. But we also came to believe that our enterprise would not be gauged by its success in overthrowing the regime. It would be a social action, a people's action; it would have a demonstration effect far beyond that of any ephemeral event.

And we decided we could do what we believed was right for the nation so long as we were willing to accept the consequences of our actions. And if we had to pay the ultimate price of failure, we were to make no unnecessary sound or movement to ensure that the nobility of our intentions was undiminished.

Aim for snake's head

Of the three senior leaders of RAM, Batac, who was then chief of Research and Analysis Office of the Intelligence Division of the PC/INP, was the strategist, the planner-intellectual; Kapunan the organization man, with wide-ranging contacts among the field commands. Honasan, baron of his class, the charismatic fighting man, was the movement's leader.

Eventually, the three told me what they planned. They would ambush General Roland Pattugalan, commander of the Presidential Guards, whom Marcos was touting as his next chief of staff. Since General Josephus Ramas, the Army commander, also coveted the post, (which Marcos' henchman, Ver, was then holding) Ramas could easily bear the blame for Pattugalan's death. Marcos' generals would begin quarreling among themselves and RAM could then take advantage of the confusion in the Marcos camp.

I suggested that revolutionary politics did not work that way. Dealing with an authoritarian ruler was like trying to kill a cobra. Regicides like ourselves should aim for its head: we shouldn't bother with the cobra's tail or even its body. We did not have the luxury of a second strike.

After some debate, RAM decided to alter the plan: we agreed we would attack Malacañang Palace itself. In the process, it was likely the entire Marcos family would be killed. I insisted the Marcoses should be taken alive, so that they could face a people's court. Honasan pointed out correctly that taking the Marcoses alive would require a larger attack force than the group we already had. (When the showdown came, we had a total of 770 men holed up in Camp Crame.) We would need to recruit more fighters. Not only would that risk the discovery of our plot but it would also raise the volume of casualties on both sides.

But I feared the fickle nature of history whose judgment of historical figures is never final. In the end, we decided to build up a larger force. Meanwhile, we also made up a list of the personages who would compose our transition government. The seven-man junta—called the Movement for National Unity—was to be made up of Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Jimmy Ongpin, Rafael Salas, Alejandro Melchor, Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel V. Ramos.

Planning the assault

We vied for the honor of leading the attack on the Palace and on its Presidential Guards. At last, it was decided that the task would go to Gringo Honasan. On that occasion, I gave him, as a keepsake, a Russian AK-47 assault rifle I used during my sojourn among the Vietcong, and which, in happier times, I had intended to present to Marcos.

Kapunan would lead the attack on the Presidential Guards on the south bank of the Pasig River. Meanwhile, Batac and I would man the RAM command post at Nichols Field, where a battalion from Trece Martires in Cavite would join us. Then Major Avelino "Sonny" Razon, Ramos' aide, was with us. As soon as the action began, he would pick up Ramos and escort him to Nichols, where Ramos would take overall command of the rebel forces.

Luttwak's 'Coup d'État'

While the young leaders of RAM completed the deadly business of organizing a coup, we all read up on Edward Luttwak ("*Coup d'État*: A Practical Handbook," London: 1968), and I passed around a copy of Anwar el-Sadat's relation of how the young Egyptian officers overthrew the dissolute King Farouk in 1952. I volunteered to get in touch with the strongman's civilian opposition.

All of us realized how the military's collaboration with the regime had alienated it from the people. Yet, we also knew that if our effort was to succeed, we would need the wholehearted support of ordinary Filipinos. Early on, we had agreed that, if we could get people out on the streets, we could deter the movement of the loyalist forces. In the early '80s, we got in touch with Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and his wife, Ting-Ting. When the action finally took place in February 1986, they blocked the roads from Tarlac to Manila, to stop loyalist troops from Marcos' "Solid North" from reinforcing him. Ting-Ting began organizing "flower brigades" similar to those the American youth movement of 1968 had used to disarm troops breaking up their demonstrations against the Vietnam War. In early February 1986, Peping set an appointment for us with the Opposition's moral leader, Cory Aquino.

Plotting in Cory's kitchen

She received Vic Batac, Red Kapunan, Boy Turingan, and myself, together with her brother Peping, in the kitchen of her house on Times Street in Quezon City. We told her that we were going to bring down Marcos by force and that we looked to her as our leader. We could not tell even her the day and the time, but it was going to be very soon. And we needed her because, once the action began, she alone could rally the people to come to our side.

Even at that late date, Mrs. Aquino was reluctant to take on the burden of the presidency. Nor did she think that the ruling generals who all owed personal loyalty to Marcos would obey her commands. Almost the first words she uttered were: "I do not want to be President because I am not capable of being President."

As RAM's spokesperson for that occasion, I pointed out that, in the life of a people, every historical period requires leadership of a certain character. And, at that point in our nation's life, in the wake of the moral excesses of the Marcoses and their cronies, we needed moral leadership of the kind she possessed.

Ninoy's funeral

I told her that I had stood on the overpass connecting Nichols and Fort Bonifacio to see Ninoy Aquino's funeral cortege pass underneath and had heard her being interviewed on radio. Asked what she would do to seek justice for her murdered husband, the grieving widow had called not for revenge, not for revolution. She had not called on the millions of Filipinos accompanying Ninoy to his grave to storm Malacañang. Yet, all she then needed to do was to give the word and surely a sufficient number of those who were grieving for Ninoy would have done so. Instead, she had quietly answered: "I will leave it to the authorities to give justice to my husband."

I told her that I thought a person who could have that kind of faith in people—even in officials of a government that might have killed her husband—must have a high moral character. I added that the military would respect someone with moral character and, of course, as President, she would command the armed forces on behalf of all the people. She answered, "Colonel, I never thought of it that way."

In her delight at having her misgivings and anxieties relieved, she burst out: "Colonel, if what you are telling me happens, you will be my first general!"

A walk with Sin

Embarrassed by her effusion, I replied that we had pledged neither to seek nor to accept any rewards, promotions or positions of power. All we hoped for was that the new government we would help install will seek to actualize the yearnings of our people.

Jaime Cardinal Sin was the second personage whose blessing we sought. Coming alone, by appointment (set by Charito Melchor, a devout laywoman), to the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong, I was met at the door by a young priest, who did not ask me in. Soon enough, the Cardinal himself came out the door alone. He invited me to walk in the garden with him as a precaution against listeners, a gesture that I appreciated. I told him we were ready to bring down Marcos and asked for his support and his prayers.

Saying our goodbyes, we both felt the emotion of the moment. He embraced me tightly as I took my leave: "Colonel, you do your duty," he said, "and I'll do mine!"

If we needed Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin to mobilize the people, we needed Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, vice chief of staff and director general of the PC/INP, to help mobilize the armed forces and the national police. I had known him for a quarter-century. We had both been assigned to the Laguna-Quezon border during the dying years of the Huk rebellion. He then led a company of infantry. I remember that, in our occasional conversations, we had both wondered why we were hunting down fellow-Filipinos. I called on him at his headquarters in Camp Crame just a few days before our planned action.

One last cigar with Ramos

Cool, discreet, deliberate, Ramos was the thinking soldier's soldier. After finishing at West Point in 1950, he fought at the 38th Parallel in Korea, served in the Huk campaign, and then in Vietnam. Throughout the years of martial law, he stood for professionalism and dedication to duty. No desk-bound commander, he was often in the field, living with the soldiers where they were. He knew all the field commanders intimately. Only he could call them to our side.

We talked for several hours. I tried to sketch for him the crisis the nation was in, and what we had decided we must do, even at the cost of our lives. At first he didn't say a great deal, though I felt he himself had gone through the same examination of conscience. I didn't need to tell him the tactical details. How we were to act and where we were to strike were clear to him. I told him we were counting on him to lead us. As soon as the action began, Sonny Razon would come for him.

When it was time for him to reply, he first pointed out that Marcos was his blood-relation. For Ilocanos, betrayal of a blood-relation was the greatest transgression. If he were to take up arms against Marcos, how could he ever face his people again?

By nature a moderate, fearful of the anarchy a revolution might set off, he was also keenly aware of the consequences his decision could set off. All we in RAM could lose were our own lives. We were responsible for no one else but our own selves. But, once Ramos committed himself against Marcos and his own long-standing rival, Ver, he would have also decided for the 90,000 constabulary men under his command, as well as for many others in the armed forces, whom he knew would loyally join him in whatever he decided to do. Hence, I understood why he could not pledge his support for our cause as blithely as we ourselves had done.

For the moment, we let it go at that. But I was sure that, when the time came, we could count on him.

As I stood up to go, he grabbed a handful of his favorite cigars from a drawer of his desk. He lit one for himself, and gave the rest to me. "Joe," he said, as he let me out the door. "Whatever you're planning, just don't make it too bloody."

'Almonte who?'

Early on, we had sworn to ourselves that, even if we succeeded, we would do no more than return to barracks, after turning government over to qualified civilian and military leaders. Thus, after the "People Power" revolution into which our mutiny had metamorphosed was over, the leaders of RAM all reported to their previous postings.

Eventually, Enrile, by then President Aquino's defense secretary, wanted Air Force Col. Antonio Sotelo, commander of the 15th Strike Wing, promoted to general. Sotelo had led nine of his helicopters down to the parade ground in Camp Crame, at a decisive moment on the morning of Feb. 24 just after a loyalist Marine detachment had infiltrated Camp Aguinaldo and set up its artillery and mortars just across the highway from where we were.

But Mrs. Aquino stubbornly refused to do so, bent on fulfilling her promise that I would be her first general.

Finally, she decided that Sotelo and I would both be promoted and on the same day: myself in the morning and Sotelo in the afternoon. And she insisted on full press coverage of my promotion ceremonies. Puzzled by all the fuss over what was ordinarily a routine ritual, a brash young reporter asked the only question after the Palace spokesperson, Secretary Rene Saguisag, had announced my promotion: "Almonte who?"

Even I laughed. From the euphoria of our bloodless victory, the question brought me down to earth. I thought it an appropriate ending to my part in the 1986 People Power Revolution.*

---

*The plans to assault Malacañang, occupy the command post in Nichols and form the transition government did not materialize because RAM was compromised shortly before D-day on Feb. 22, 1986. On the afternoon of Feb. 21, Batac called my home in Fort Bonifacio, which was our assembly point for the Nichols operation, to abort the plan and to immediately assemble in Camp Aguinaldo where Enrile and Ramos announced to the nation their withdrawal of support from Marcos. The rest is history.

Financing the new government

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WILL CONFRONT THE NEW government should our movement succeed was the availability of resources to finance national rebuilding and renewal.

Fortuitously, in the late '70s, Alex Melchor had put me in touch with Michael Cesar U. de Guzman, who wanted to set up a bank in Austria. In the course of our association, I intimated to him our need for ready cash in the event we form a new government.

A few days after the February revolution, De Guzman called me from Larnaca, Cyprus, to ask permission to begin the recovery operation of the hidden wealth of Marcos and his cronies in Switzerland. I told him to proceed under the codename: "Operation Big Bird."

When he came back to Manila in May 1986, the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Jovito Salonga, agreed to head the recovery team. But Salonga changed his mind on the day of the team's departure for Switzerland. Since our people were already committed on the ground, I agreed, with the approval of President Cory Aquino, to head the operation instead.

This project was able to recover an initial amount of $213 million in 1986. That amount, held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank, has now grown to more than $800 million.

By the time I unilaterally terminated the operation in late 1986, we had been able to document an additional $3.8 billion, ready for release, and identify another $4 billion. Our sources in Switzerland assured us we would recover between $10 billion and $20 billion.

That "Operation Big Bird" failed to recover the rest of the hidden wealth was the subject of a prolonged congressional investigation by a committee headed by Rep. Victorico "Concoy" L. Chaves.

The committee traveled to the United States and Europe, and interviewed many relevant personalities and witnesses—all except the former PCGG chair, Salonga, who was by then the Senate president.

In the end, Salonga must answer to the nation and to history for the Philippine state's failure to recover the hidden Swiss wealth of Marcos and his cronies through "Operation Big Bird."

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48 Bicol towns prone to disasters

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IMAGE CHANGE
Kalinga Gov. Dominador Belac Sr. discouraged the war dance from being performed in a dance competition during the 11th Foundation Day of Kalinga to erase the province's image as an area of tribal conflicts. Instead, the festival highlighted the Kalingas' daily agricultural life in Poblacion, Tabuk, Kalinga.

SORSOGON CITY—AT LEAST 48 MUNICIPALITIES in the Bicol region are considered geologically hazardous, making them highly prone to landslides and flooding, an official of a government geology agency said.

A senior geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) also said one province in the region was classified as geologically hazardous.

Arlene Dayao, supervising geologist of the MGB Bicol regional office, said 39 of these municipalities would be subjected to a geohazard survey this year while studies were already made on 10 municipalities last year.

All but one province, the province of Masbate, have areas that are highly prone to flooding, erosion and landslides, Dayao told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Among these highly hazardous areas are Manito, Tiwi, Ligao, Pio Duran and Libon in Albay; Sangay, Lagonoy, Sipocot, Libmanan and Lupi in Camarines Sur; Mercedez and the areas along Mount Bagacay in Camarines Norte, and Magallanes, Juban, Bacon District, Bulan and Matnog in Sorsogon.

Masbate has no geologically dangerous area because of its low terrain while the entire province of Catanduanes is highly susceptible to either landslides or mudslides, Dayao said.

She said Catanduanes had already been subjected to a geological survey in previous years.

Also listed as danger areas are the towns of Jovellar, Guinobatan, Camalig, Oas, Ligao and Polangui in Albay; Naga City and the towns of Canaman, Camaligan, Gainza, Goa, Tinambac, Tigaon, Del Gallego, Caramoan, Ocampo, Pamplona, Pili, Sipocot, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Baao, Cabusao, Bula, Calabanga, Pasacao, Magarao, Milaor and Presentacion in Camarines Sur; and Irosin town and Sorsogon City in Sorsogon.

The MGB official explained that these towns have mountains and other steep areas that are largely composed of silt, stone and shale, making them loose and prone to erosion.

Dayao urged local officials of these municipalities to be extra vigilant during heavy rains and immediately warn their constituents of the dangers of landslides, especially if the rains last for three days or more.

These municipalities have all experienced landslides, mudslides and flooding in the past and this was the reason they were prioritized by the MGB for study, she said. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-solon bars politicians from aid distribution

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez on Saturday gave away truckloads of relief goods to flood victims and residents here on Feb. 11, but with one strict directive to his staff: Keep politicians out.

A source, who was among the coordinators of the event, said Jimenez instructed members of his foundation never to allow politicians—from mayors and higher officials—to ride on the relief work and gain political mileage.

"It was really meant to be low key, discreet because [they] did not want this to be associated with politics," said the source.

The relief goods arrived here on Feb. 11 dawn and were distributed in 30 villages in Bayombong, Solano and Bagabag towns, the areas worst hit by floods caused by tropical depression "Agaton" in late January.

Jimenez was elected representative of Manila's sixth district in 2001, but was unseated in 2003 after he was extradited to the United States to face charges related to illegal contribution to the campaign of former US President Bill Clinton.

Since his return from a three-year prison term this year, Jimenez has been sending donations to poor residents and calamity victims, through a foundation known as Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, Nagkakaisang Pilipino (One in God, One Filipino).

"Whatever his motives are, we do not know, and we do not intend to find out. What's important is that he gave these goods voluntarily and these would be for the benefit of our people," the source said.

Aside from Nueva Vizcaya, other areas where Jimenez sent relief goods were Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Cagayan and Isabela.

Residents in Solano said 1,800 packages containing rice, canned goods, instant noodles and clothes, loaded in six 10-wheel trucks, were distributed there on Feb. 11.

Recipients were based on names obtained from the local social welfare office. They were flood victims as well as indigent families, the source said.

"The goods were directly given to the beneficiaries, without the usual politicians as go-betweens—no publicity, no fanfare, no photo opportunities," the source said.

In Nueva Ecija, more than 8,500 bags of relief goods from Jimenez were distributed in five towns recently.

Leonardo Garcia, chair of the league of barangays of Nueva Ecija, said goods were distributed in the towns of Bongabon, Gabaldon, Cabiao, San Leonardo and San Antonio. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND
AWARD COMMITTEE

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of the Philippines has applied a Loan to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the following contract:

No.	Position	Qualifications
IFB-CS-FAP-2006-1	Procurement Officer	• Has degree preferably in Law, Economics, Business Administration, and Engineering • Minimum of three (3) years experience in administering procurement for project financed by ODA • Excellent written and oral communication skills • Ability to work with a team and manage multiple tasks in dynamic enviroment • Highly satisfactory performance record on procurement and financial management

The Deparment of Health now invites qualified individuals to express interest in providing the above services. Expressions of Interests and curriculum vitae shall be sent to the address below by no later than 27 February 2006.

The individual will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines. Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers dated May 2004.

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
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(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary
Chairperson, COBAC

Smoking is hazardous to your health

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for :

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT
1	Rizal	Rosario Ocampo Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building
		San Jose Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building
2	Rizal	Lipat-Lipat Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building
		Mambog Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building
3	Rizal	Tanay National High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building
		Gen Licerio Geronimo Natl. High School	Construction of Three (3) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building
4	Antipolo City	Sapinit Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building
		Inuman Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building
5	Quezon City	Placido del Mundo Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
		San Gabriel Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
6	Quezon City	Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
		Ismael Mathay Sr. High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
7	Quezon City	Novaliches High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
		San Francisco High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
8	Quezon City	Carlos Albert High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
9	Caloocan City	Gabriela Silang Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building
10	Caloocan City	Deparo Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
		Camarin Elementary School	Phase II-Completion of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
11	Marikina City	Sto. Niño Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building
12	Parañaque City	Parañaque Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
13	Las Piñas City	Pamplona Central Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building
14	Malabon Navotas	Tinajeros National High School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building
		Potrero High School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building
15	Muntinlupa City	Muntinlupa Elementary School	Phase II - Completion of construction of 3 Storey School Building

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Location
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 13, 2006 - February 20, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 5th Flr.,Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 14, 2006 - February 24, 2006	
Eligibility Screening	February 27, 2006 - March 2, 2006	
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 6, 2006	
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 6 to April 5, 2006	
Pre-Bid Conference	March 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 1 to 8)	April 5, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 9 to 15)	April 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI - February 12 & 19, 2006)

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Despite ordeal, OFW still pushes luck

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

SHE LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR LEBANON, BRIMMING WITH hope that she and her three children could escape from poverty that has stalked their lives since her husband died.

Her salvation, though, came through a window and with a slippery cable wire.

Perhaps, Maria Corazon Carido's story reflects the lives of most of the eight million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who gambled on luck but ended up not only with shattered dreams but also broken limbs or, worst, dead.

Carido, 36, left the country in April last year to work as a domestic helper in Lebanon. It was a difficult choice for it meant being separated from her children for the first time.

Life, she said, was a grueling day-to-day battle for survival. She was worried about how a college undergraduate and single mother like her could ever send her children to school.

But she swore that in Lebanon, inside the third-floor apartment of her employers, her life was hell. There, she said, she met Saleem El Hajj and his wife, who for her, were evil personified.

"I was basically not allowed to eat. There was just no decent food for me and all the time I was fed only with leftovers. When I stole food, I [was] beaten by my boss," she narrated.

She said she was not given a room and her personal belongings were left in one corner of the kitchen. She slept in the living room, but only after her employers had watched television in the wee hours of the morning.

"They demanded that I get up early but they did not allow me to sleep early. I was not allowed to have a day off," she said. In the job agreement she had signed, she said, she was entitled to a day off from work every week.

Carido said she started to complain, especially when she learned that her mother in the Philippines was only receiving $150 (about P8,250) from her monthly salary, or $50 short of what was stated in the employment agreement.

CARIDO JEFFREY TUPAS

Two months after she arrived in Lebanon and while her employers were hosting a party, she escaped and sought the help of the Philippine Embassy there. She was, however, brought to the Philippine labor attaché who, in turn, contacted her employers.

Barely 12 hours after she fled, Carido found herself back to her employers who promised to heed her demands: a day off, $200 monthly salary, and decent food.

"I was allowed a day off but it only happened for one Sunday. It never happened again, and the Sundays that followed, my male employer would send me to the house of his mother-in-law to work," she said.

"I was also abused physically. Over simple mistakes, Saleem slapped and punched me and hit my head. His wife constantly threatened to kill me," she said.

"I was also not allowed to talk to other Pinoys there."

Injured

On Jan. 4, after lunch, she tried to escape again. She grabbed a cable wire, tied it around an iron bar and tossed it out of the window. But she fell to the ground.

"The wire was so slippery, but it was the least of my concerns then. All I was thinking of was to escape or I will surely die in the hands of my employers ... I was so afraid," Carido said.

While recuperating at the hospital, Carido expected that she would be given assistance by concerned agencies. She again ended up in the hands of her employers who forced her to work despite her condition.

"I wanted to go to the embassy and seek their assistance. One day, Saleem said he will send me to the embassy, but I found out that we were actually heading toward the airport. He bought me a ticket to Manila," she said.

Carido could only cry on her way to Manila.

OFW remittances

Lawyer Angela Librado said the plight of Carido and the many other unfortunate OFWs was harrowing.

"Their contribution to our economy cannot be overemphasized. It is said that migrants all over the world send home an amount more than the total foreign aid or the official development assistance by the US and other countries to Third World nations," said Librado, who is also a councilor of Davao City.

In 2004, she noted, migrants sent home more than $150 billion in remittances and an estimated $300 billion sent informally to families in countries of origin.

As OFW remittances soar to billions and contribute to saving the country's economy, the workers are not getting the treatment and benefits they deserve—their welfare continuously sacrificed and subjected to corrupt practices of government officials, Librado said.

"Billions of pesos in accumulated Filipino migrant workers' contributions are held in trust at the OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) to finance welfare and benefit programs for migrant workers," she said.

Welfare program

In February 2003, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 182 which aimed to transfer the P4-billion migrant workers' Medicare Fund to PhilHealth.

"The OWWA indefinitely suspended all welfare programs covering health care, livelihood and financial assistance. This has left distressed migrant workers and their dependents with no access to their financial contributions for hospitalization, scholarship and other services," Librado said.

Still all bruised up and weak, Carido went to the OWWA office immediately after she arrived in Manila, only to be told that the agency could not help in her hospitalization expenses because hers was not a total disability case. Besides, she was told, she was not a PhilHealth member.

Now with a body brace to protect her spinal cord, Carido moves around government agencies and offices of nongovernment organizations to seek help. She intends to file court charges against her Lebanese employers.

Still, for Carido, working abroad is simply a matter of luck.

"*Swerte-swerte lang* (It's all good luck). I know that going to another country to work is suicide. I committed suicide, yes, but it was all because of my children ... and when all these are over, I still want to work abroad," she said.

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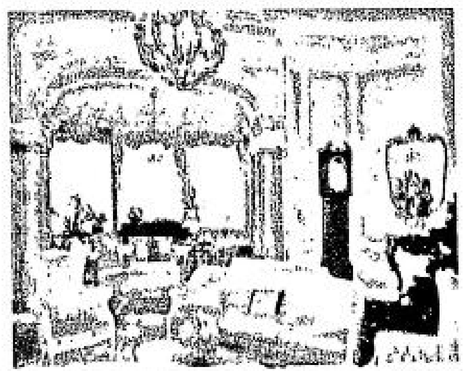

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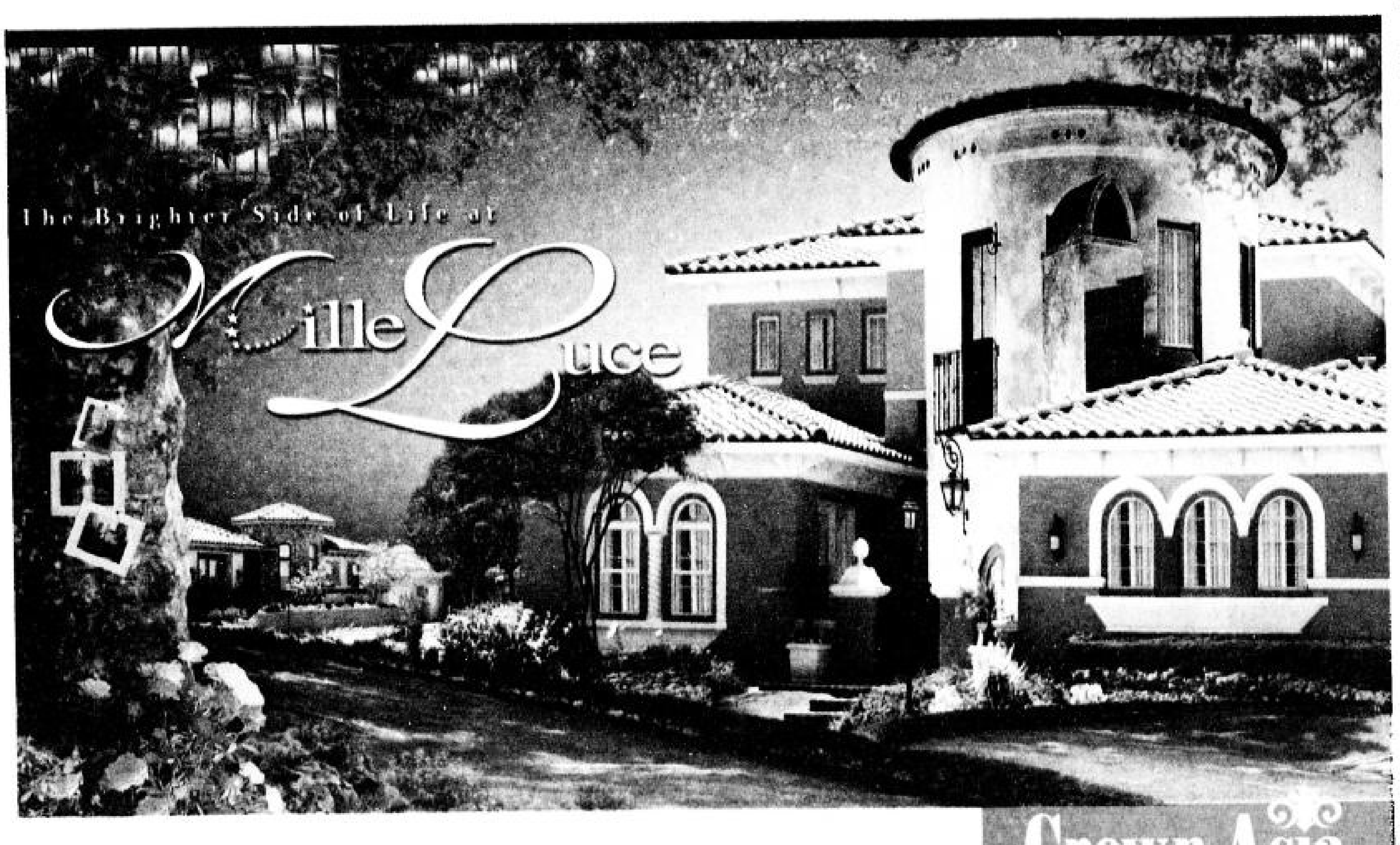

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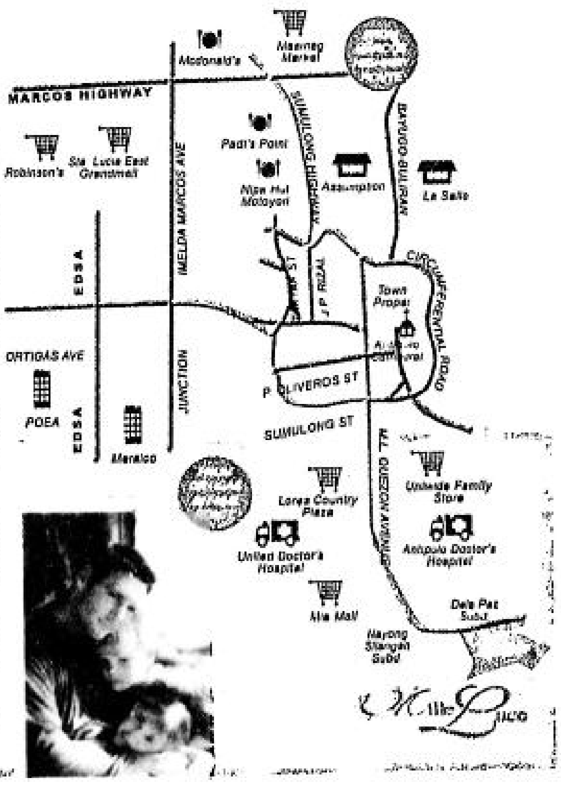
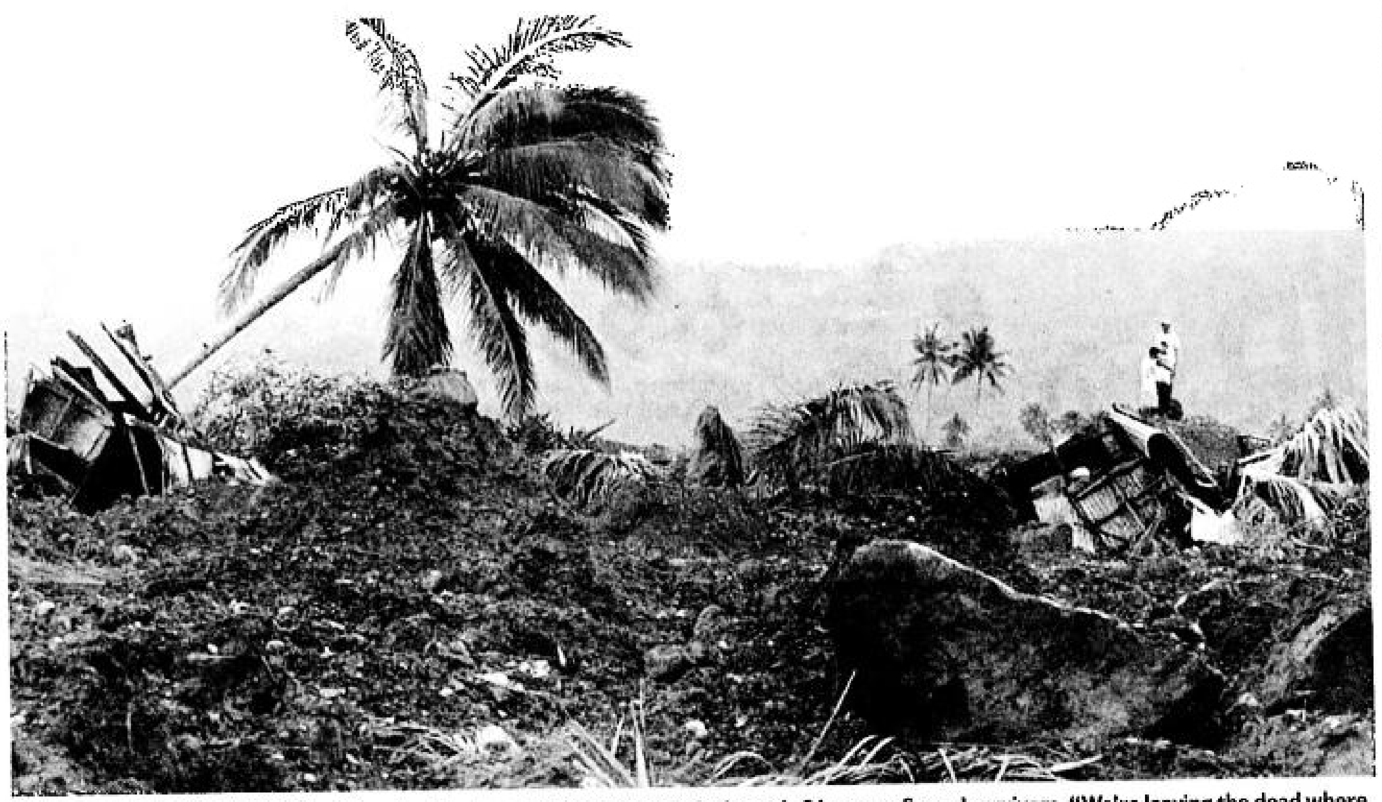




THIS IS WHAT REMAINS of the village that had a population of 2,000. So far, only 86 are confirmed survivors. "We're leaving the dead where they are," said a rescuer as the main concern is to rescue survivors. EDWIN BACASMAS

Village was disaster waiting to happen

From page A1

it added.

Lawyer Deinrado Dimalibot, the outgoing DENR undersecretary for mining services, confirmed to the INQUIRER that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau as early as last year had identified the geological hazards confronting the town of St. Bernard and the province itself.

Geological dangers

"As early as May of last year we had already mapped St. Bernard although in a more general way," Dimalibot said, referring to the DENR and the MGB's assessment of the geological dangers around the municipality.

The DENR has said that excessive rainfall in the area the past two weeks aggravated the situation. Rainwater saturated the hillside and the loose ground eventually gave way, causing the landslide.

"We were still in the process (of making a more detailed study) and this happened," Dimalibot said of the process started during Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor's tenure at the department.

He said the objective was to identify the geo-hazards down to particular streets.

Geo-hazard maps

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said over radio dzBB that the DENR, particularly its geologists from the MGB, would hasten the updating of the country's geo-hazard maps to identify other landslide-prone areas and prevent more tragedies from happening.

The Chamber of Mines and the Philippine Mining Safety and Environmental Association have also mobilized their safety network action centers to assist in the affected area.

Dimalibot confirmed that a community in Davao del Norte was relocated after signs of an impending landslide caused concern among the residents. The people were gone when the landslide did happen.

Prone to erosion

A geological study showed that their location on the edge of the highly unstable undersea Philippine Trench meant that the bedrock of southern Leyte and the northeast coast of Mindanao were "badly broken or fragmentted" and "prone to weathering and erosion."

When continuous rains fall, the water seeps into and saturates the rock fractures, creating a loose and unstable combination, experts said.

DENR experts also said that the natural forest cover of southern Leyte, which would have helped prevent erosion, had been replaced to a large extent by coconut plantations since the 1920s.

The encroachment of people into vulnerable upland areas has also been blamed for the frequent landslides in the Philippines.

Importance of mapping

Secretary Reyes said the geo-hazard map he wanted drawn up would identify areas where a similar disaster might occur and guide the government to draw up plans to avoid casualties.

Reyes said, President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted a more comprehensive geo-hazard map because the existing maps were outdated.

Reyes said reports that the landslides were caused by illegal logging were false because the village was not a known logging area.

He said the area had volcanic soil that was susceptible to erosion. The soil loosened due to heavy rains in the past two weeks, he said.

He said that the ill-fated Barangay Guinsaugon had a population of 1,851, but the number of people in the village was estimated to have reached 2,000 on Friday morning, when the disaster struck, because guests from neighboring villages were attending a meeting of women's groups there.

Archbishop's view

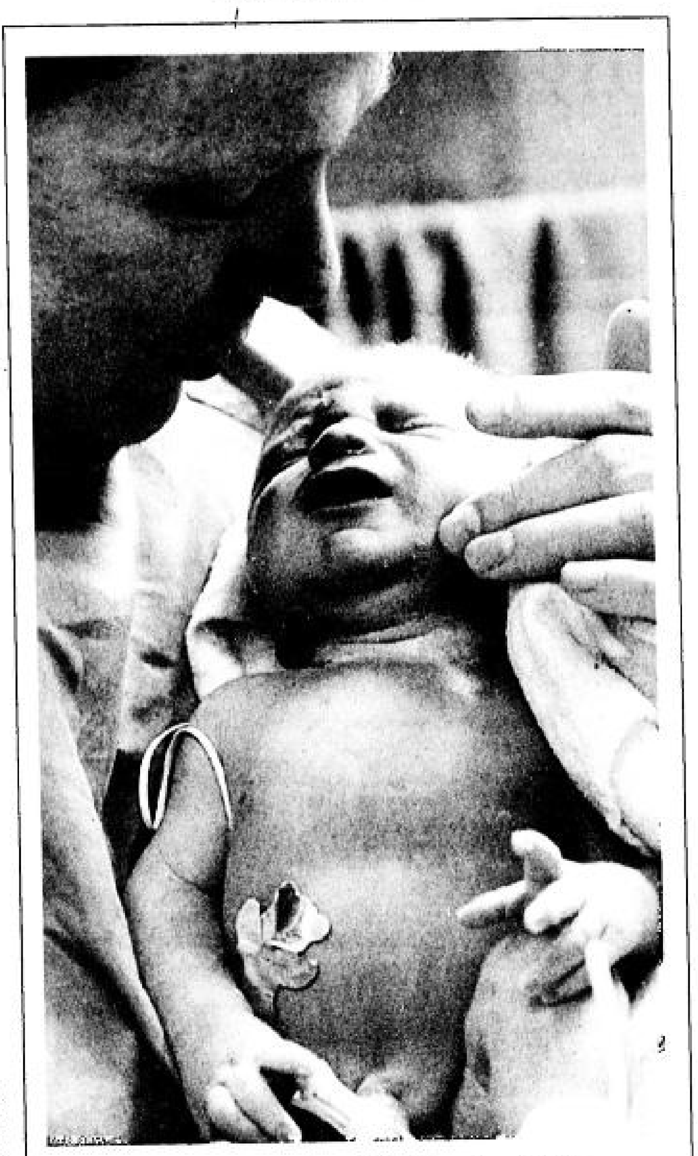
Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said the landslide might have been prevented, or its effects mitigated, had the government and other sectors concerned acted on the problem of denudation of forests.

"The real reason for this terrible tragedy is that forests have been badly denuded and no serious replanting has been done. It is time for the powers that be to address strongly these issues. Otherwise, incidents such as what happened [in St. Bernard] will be replayed again," the Manila prelate said in a statement.

An official of an environment protection group blamed the government for failing to implement safety measures that, it said, could have prevented the St. Bernard landslide.

Clemente Bautista, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, said the government had identified St. Bernard as a landslide-prone area since 2003 and the deaths could have been prevented, if not minimized, if it had acted early enough.

"The Arroyo administration had identified the needed steps to mitigate landslides and to prepare the local populace for disasters, such as massive reforestation and the setting up of a locally based early warning system. Yet the Arroyo administration failed to implement their own recommendations," Bautista said. ***With reports from Jerome Aning, Vincent Cabreza and Robert Abaño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



HEALTHY BABY born to Scott Wulf (above) and his 62-year-old wife Janise. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces. AP

Blind great-grandma bears 12th child

From page A1

record, Friday's delivery put her among only a handful of senior-aged mothers.

The oldest woman on record to give birth is a 66-year-old Romanian woman who had a Caesarean section on Jan. 15, 2005. Adriana Iliescu was aided by artificial insemination, doctors said.

The Guinness Book of World Records also lists two 63-year-old women who have given birth: Rosanna Della Corte of Italy in 1994 and Acheli Keh of California in 1996. News reports, however, list Della Corte's age at 62 when she gave birth.

The Record Searchlight independently verified Wulf's age.

Age is only a number

Wulf is used to defying the odds. Blind since birth, she was a synchronized swimmer in high school, worked as a piano and organ saleswoman and developed a passion for cooking.

Wulf said Friday that she considers her late-in-life pregnancy a groundbreaking act for older women.

"Age is a number. You're as old as you feel," she said. "Every time you revolutionize something or you do something different, there's going to be naysayers." *AP*

Red reigns in color-coded PMA rites, but coup a dud

From page A1

Military Academy.

But there was no coup.

There were fewer attendees at this year's alumni homecoming and the atmosphere on Borromeo Field where the alumni gathered was more somber than on previous occasions.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of Class 1961, said the low attendance could be traced to the reported coup plot against the Arroyo administration.

"There are very few of us here, I wonder why. I also heard that [many] field commanders were advised to stay with their units," said Biazon.

A fugitive member of the Magdalo group had earlier asked the public to wear red ribbons and armbands to highlight their clamor for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster. The call was made amid rumors that dissident soldiers would disrupt the homecoming.

But when Ms Arroyo sent her daughter Evangelina Lourdes, or Luli, to the PMA homecoming, it proved that the report about the event exploding into a full-blown military coup was nothing but a dud.

Luli arrived unannounced, wearing pink, and even marched alongside members of Class 1991.

One class had red bands wrapped around their hats while another wore red hats. Younger classes came to the field wearing red shirts.

The wives of the participating classes, however, came dressed in green or yellow spring dresses. The wives of the members of Class 1976 came in stylish abel Iloco designs which they had commissioned for the homecoming.

Scaring ourselves

Proceso Maligalig, former spokesperson of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, said: "We are inclined to scare ourselves. That's usual among Filipinos. *Wala namang kinatatakutan, gumagawa ng katatatukan* (There's nothing to fear so they create something to fear). [The homecoming] is one of the best things for the alumni ... to come home to school and relive our idealism, our memories," he said.

Maligalig, a retired Navy captain and brother of the present PMA superintendent, Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez should not have leaked information to the media about the alleged coup plot if he was convinced that the plotters had no capability to implement it.

He added that senior PMA alumni made a political statement yesterday by participating in this year's homecoming without making political pronouncements, unlike during previous events.

Well-applauded speech

In a well-applauded speech, Karina Constantino David, chair of the Civil Service Commission and guest speaker at the alumni homecoming, said: "The challenge to all of us as Filipinos is how to create a strong and legitimate political system that makes military intervention unnecessary; [a system] that allows the military to simply become a professional corps."

Despite rumors that military adventurists would disrupt this year's homecoming, some Cabinet officials attended the event.

Present were Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes (Class 1966) and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. (1970); Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga (1972); Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao (1972) and Ambassador Roy Cimatu (1970).

Retired Brig. Gen. Roland Pattugalan of Class 1957 coordinated the event as president of PMA Alumni Association Inc. ***With reports from Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza, Xaris Hope Tamayo, Stephanie Pineda, Jo Ann Papio and Arriane Santos, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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Fugitive officer 'Sniper' housemate Nene's idol

From page A1

But will she find happiness with "Sniper?"

If you had not been following PBB, Sniper was the code name of a fan who congratulated Tamayo on the night of Dec. 10 when she was adjudged the big winner of PBB's first season.

Giggling like a schoolgirl, Tamayo, 24, admitted that Sniper was actually 1st Lt. Laurence San Juan, one of the four Magdalo Army officers who escaped from their maximum detention cells in Fort Bonifacio last month.

The PBB winner said San Juan also gave a TV interview last year, defending Tamayo from rumors that she was gay. "But his face was not shown, so the public never knew it was him," she said, amused about the incident.

Tamayo said that on the night the "housemate" with the highest votes was to be proclaimed, San Juan assured her that he and fellow Scout Rangers would vote for her.

Tamayo garnered 554,906 votes, or 48.9 percent of the total votes. "I believe he really supported me," she said, beaming.

Tamayo later revealed that she herself supported the cause for "just and peaceful reforms" waged by San Juan and his group, Makabayang Kawal Pilipino.

San Juan, together with Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento and 1st Lt Patricio Bumidang are among the 85 officers under trial for the short-lived Oakwood mutiny in July 2003. They fled their cells in Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17 and the police have been looking for them since.

Tamayo denied rumors that she had arranged the exclusive interview that San Juan granted ABS-CBN three weeks ago.

She visited San Juan and other detainees in Fort Bonifacio two days after she won the PBB. They invited her to attend their court hearing in Makati on Dec. 14 but Tamayo said she had other commitments.

Another rebel officer, Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, managed to escape that day. He was, however, arrested on Jan. 27.

Tamayo said she learned about the ABS-CBN interview from the rebel officer himself. "He sent me a text message after talking to Karen (Davila). He also asked me to pray for his safety," she recalled.

In 1999, San Juan taught patrolling to advanced military science students at the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR) training camp in San Miguel, Bulacan. Tamayo, a computer engineering student from the University of the East in Caloocan City, was among the 17 girls and 180 boys who enrolled in the course.

According to Tamayo, San Juan was a good instructor. "Idol *talaga* (really)," she gushed.

Tamayo narrated that once she arrived late for class. She had overslept, tired from utility duty the previous night.

"I wanted to tell a lie—that I did not fall asleep. But my cheeks bore marks from the metal grids of the bunk bed," she said.

Tamayo said her heart was beating wildly, but the instructor just looked at her sternly.

Later that day, one of the trainees told her that San Juan had asked for her name and address.

"I thought they were pulling my leg. Besides, I'm a trainee, he's the instructor," Tamayo said.

Days later, San Juan approached her and gave her a hand-held radio. "He said he would like to talk to me. I thought it was a joke," Tamayo said.

Just before the 10 p.m. taps, the hand-held radio came alive with San Juan's voice.

"My bunkmate was teasing me—that I should ask him to sing and I did," Tamayo said.

San Juan sang "All My Life," originally by the group America, and it has become Tamayo's favorite song since.

Just before training ended in June, San Juan invited Tamayo and another friend to attend the wedding of a PMA classmate. They planned to meet again but San Juan had to leave for a field assignment.

Tamayo continued with her military training during summer and semestral breaks. She topped the Mustang challenge, a grueling 15-day endurance test that included a 3.2-mile run daily for 15 days and swimming in full uniform, complete with combat boots and a backpack.

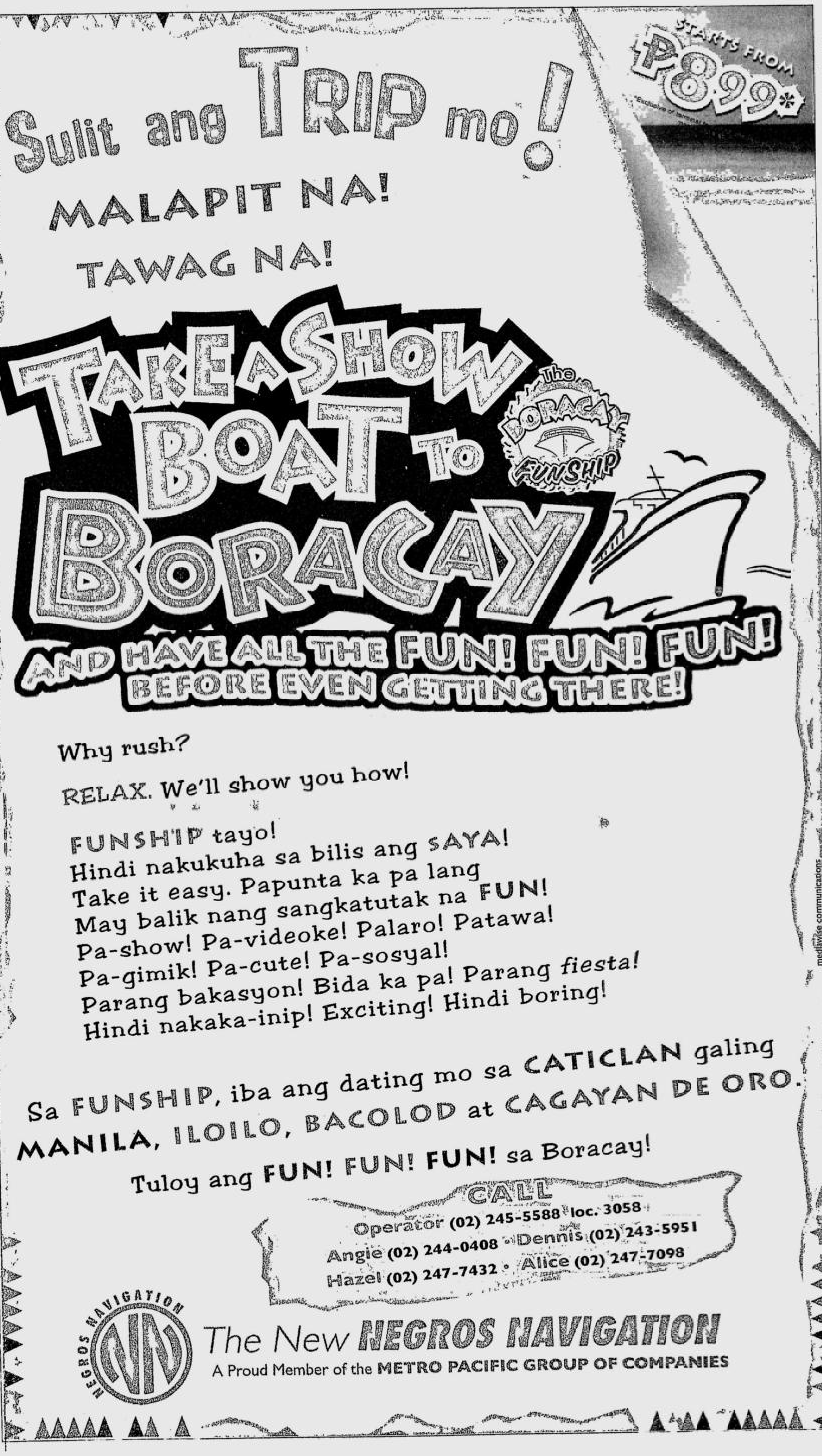
In 2002, Tamayo, the girl from Romblon who dreamed of joining the PMA, was named corps commander of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) of all UE campuses.

She said she also kept in touch with San Juan and the other Scout Rangers she had met at Camp Tecson.

Just before the July 27, 2003, Oakwood mutiny, she received a text message from San Juan urging her to support their cause.

At that time, Tamayo said she was already working as a legal assistant in Quezon City, and San Juan had gotten married.

She finally visited him in Fort Bonifacio shortly before she auditioned for PBB. She visited him again after learning she had passed the audition.



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Abused women find hope at the Haven

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LURED BY THE PROMISE OF ADVENTURE and a better life in the big city, Elaine, then 19, packed her bags and left her home in Davao City without a backward glance.

Little did she know that in Metro Manila, what awaited her was heartache and hardship.

Now 24 and two years after her ordeal which sorely tested her faith in God and humankind, Elaine has found a refuge where she is gradually reclaiming her dignity and pursuing dreams that have been put on hold.

Elaine and her two-year-old baby are among those staying at the Haven for Women, a center in Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City, which has cared for over 5,000 abused women for the past 10 years.

The 15-building complex, which sits on a 3.2-hectare government property, is funded through the efforts of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) led by Gina de Venecia, wife of House Speaker Jose de Venecia, and operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

When she arrived in Manila, Elaine said she worked as a house help for a Chinese family in Binondo, doing backbreaking work for miniscule pay.

"The agency said that once I got to Manila, I will get a job in a factory that pays P280 a day. But it turned out the agency was not authorized to recruit," she recounted.

Elaine later landed a job as a packer in a toothpaste factory. She stayed there until a man, whom she refused to talk about, got her pregnant.

Heavy with child, Elaine said she looked for a place where she could stay until she gave birth. A friend then referred her to a couple in Mandaluyong who was looking for a stay-in masseuse.

"My employer's husband had suffered a stroke so he needed to be massaged everyday," she said.

Out of gratitude to the couple for taking her in, Elaine said she became their house help but without pay.

When she prematurely gave birth to a baby girl in March 2004, however, the couple demanded that she give her child to them.

When Elaine said no, they charged her with theft and had her arrested.

She can still clearly remember how she and her employer literally engaged in a tug-of-war for her newborn baby at a judge's sala.

"We were tugging at the baby. My baby was really crying," she sobbed.

When the DSWD finally awarded the child to her, Elaine and her daughter were taken to the Haven where officials were confident she could get help on starting afresh.

"I chose to be brought here because, based on what the social workers had explained to me, I realized that our rights would be protected here. Coming from a cruel world, I never knew there were people who would really care for us," Elaine said.

Now on her second year at the Haven, Elaine was recently acquitted of the theft charges filed by her former employers against her. She is also set to meet with her family in Davao a few months from now.

"Although I still cry when I remember my past, here, they have taught us to look forward to the future, to share our stories with others to ease our burden and to forgive," she told the INQUIRER.

THE HAVEN: Helping abused women rebuild their lives. BETOY JOHNSON

MIME Mario Bon stands tall. RAFFY LERMA

Diminutive man with a big heart

By Tina G. Santos

TALES OF THE CITY

WHAT HE LACKS IN HEIGHT, HE MORE THAN makes up for in humor and kindheartedness.

Standing motionless on an improvised stage, Mario Bon, 37, draws the attention of promenaders along the brightly lit Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, in his colorful clown outfit and face paint.

Whenever someone drops money into the "charity box" in front of him, Bon goes into action—dancing and staging funny antics that make the audience laugh.

Bon, who stands 3-foot-5, is one of the mimes at a bar in the area that employs "tiny" people. He performs on stage from Mondays to Thursdays and then works as a waiter in the same establishment for the rest of the week.

"This is how I earn a living for my family. And this is also my way of helping others," Bon told the INQUIRER.

Unknown to his audience, part of the money that goes into his charity box is donated by Bon to an orphanage.

"If I earn, like, P500 a night, I give P200 to the abandoned children," he said in Filipino.

Although Bon said he feels good doing what he does, he has had to put up with some people who poke fun at his appearance.

"One time while performing onstage," he shared, "a drunken man asked me to lean toward him while he acted as if he was trying to get something from his pocket. I thought he was going to hand me money, but instead, he pinched my nose hard. It was so painful."

In another incident, a teenage boy suddenly hit him on the head and even attempted to push him off the stage, prompting security personnel to come to his rescue.

"I just ignore them, but, of course, I feel bad. Except for my height, I'm also like anybody else, I'm also human," he said. "If they only knew what this charity box is for."

Bon, however, finds comfort in the arms of his family, especially his children, who often tell him how proud they are of him.

"I melt every time they tell me 'Papa, we're so proud of you'. They always tell me not to be disheartened as long as I'm not hurting anyone. It really touches my heart," he said.

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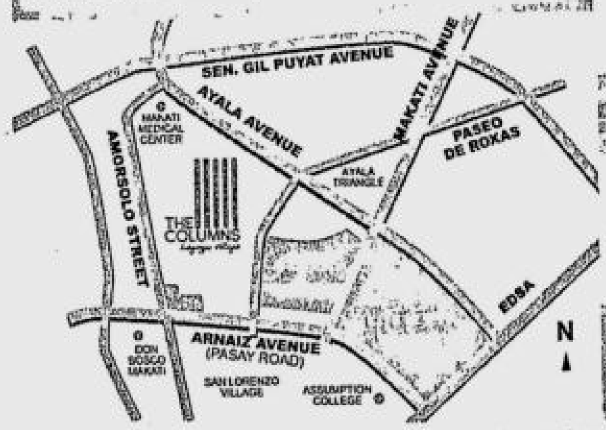

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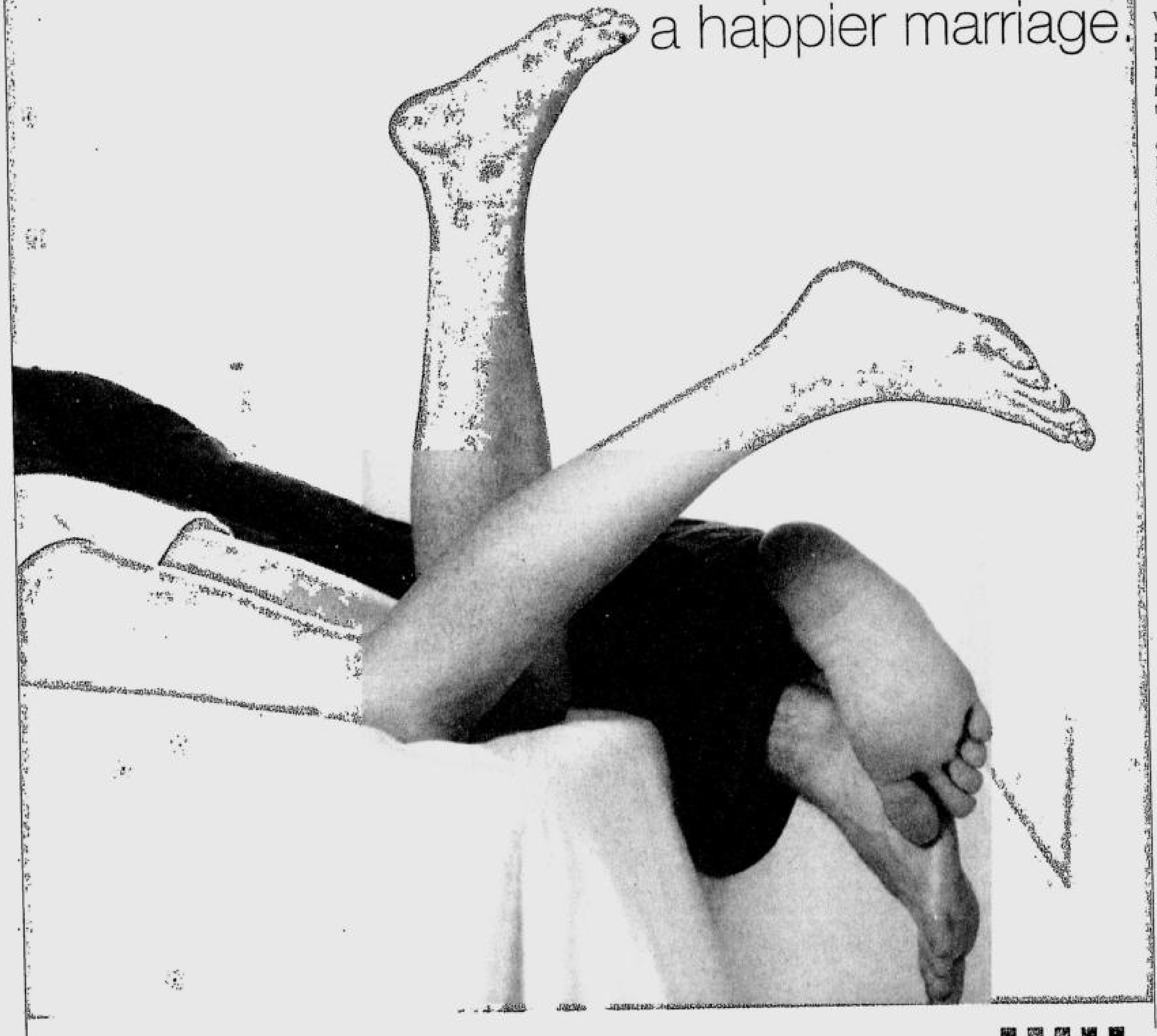

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JAPANESE Ambassador Ryuichiro and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza honor those who died during the Battle for Manila in February 1945. REM ZAMORA

Japanese envoy apologizes to war victims, kin

By Tina G. Santos

AFTER 61 YEARS, MIGUEL PEREZ RUBIO has finally found closure.

Perez Rubio, now 80, was a guerrilla who lost his entire family—his parents, two brothers, sister and two aunts—during the Battle for Manila in February 1945.

"I was the only one who survived," the man who had served as chief of protocol to former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, told reporters yesterday.

Perez Rubio said he had frequent nightmares about the massacre of his family.

Letting go of the past finally became easier yesterday when Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Ryuichiro Yamazaki formally apologized for the destruction of the city which left over 100,000 Filipinos dead.

Yamazaki's apology, the first ever for the devastation wrought by Japanese troops on the city, was made during a ceremony to mark the 61st anniversary of the Battle for Manila which began on Feb. 3, 1945 and lasted for 28 days.

"The terror that each Filipino man, woman and child must have experienced in Manila 61 years ago is beyond the imagination of any sane human being. With this historical fact in mind, I would like to express my heartfelt apologies and deep sense of remorse over the tragic fate of Manila," Yamazaki said during the wreath-laying ceremony at a memorial in honor of those who were killed at the Plazuela de Sta. Isabel in Intramuros.

Also present during the ceremony were Victoria Quirino Delgado, daughter of former President Elpidio Quirino; city officials led by Mayor Lito Atienza; and members of Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation, a group founded by the survivors and descendants of the victims.

"Let me also reiterate the Japanese government's determination not to allow the lessons of that horrible World War II to erode, and to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world without ever waging a war," Yamazaki said.

He added that he was impressed "by the noble spirit of reconciliation and the sense of fairness on the part of the Filipino people."

With AFP report

METROBRIEFS

Laguna exec killed

A PUBLIC information officer of Sta. Rosa, Laguna was gunned down by still unidentified men in Makati City yesterday morning. According to witnesses, the suspects, on board a black sedan car, pushed Jensen Cristobal, 31, out of their vehicle and shot him several times in a parking lot near the Honda Cars building in Paseo de Magallanes, Barangay Magallanes. A witness told the police that he heard several gunshots before he saw Cristobal slumped in the parking lot. A man then alighted from the vehicle with plate number UHD 416 and shot the victim several times. "It seemed that he wanted to make sure that the victim was killed," said case investigator P03 Noel Pardinas in an interview. However, nobody could tell the police how many people were inside the vehicle as the car windows were heavily tinted, the investigator added.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Gunman identified

ONE of the two suspects arrested for the car theft incident in BF Homes Parañaque has been identified as the one who shot dead Richard Capili. Capili, 19, was killed by three men who took the Toyota Revo he was driving inside the subdivision last Sunday. Capili family lawyer, Antonio Cope, said the two suspects, Roberto Pepito and Raymond Bongabong, were positively identified by witnesses as the ones who took Capili's van. City police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles said the witnesses also identified Bongabong as the gunman. The two suspects were arrested Tuesday morning in Santo Tomas, La Union. A third suspect, identified as Estiven Liwanag, was killed in a shootout. Charges of car theft and murder were filed against the suspects after Capili's body was cremated at the Manila Memorial Park yesterday.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Pastoral assembly

THE Diocese of Parañaque, which covers the cities of Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, will hold its first diocesan pastoral assembly on Feb. 20-24 at the St. Joseph Parish (Bamboo Organ Church) in Las Piñas. Close to 500 delegates are expected to attend the assembly with the theme, "On the Road to Renewal towards Integral Evangelization." They will participate in the deliberation of issues that affect society, the family, the youth and developing communities. The five-day assembly was convened by Parañaque Bishop Jesse E. Mercado to formalize the mission and identity of the diocese. In preparation for the event, a recollection and theological deepening for all Parañaque clergy was conducted by Bishop Chito Tagle on Feb. 8.

Sunday SPORTS

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Viloria risks title today

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL LIGHT FLYWEIGHT kingpin Brian Viloria stakes all the marbles when he faces Mexican challenger Jose Antonio "El Jaguar" Aguirre in a 12-round rumble today at the Alladin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The bout, one of the three world title fights being put up by Top Rank, will be aired starting at 10 a.m. over Solar Sports and RPN-9.

The other clashes pit WBO welterweight champ Antonio Margarito against Manuel Gomez and WBO minimumweight ruler Ivan Calderon against Isaac Bustos.

At yesterday's weigh-in, Viloria, who will have both the Philippine and American flags emblazoned on his trunks, came in at 107 lbs, one below the limit, while Aguirre checked in at 107.5 lbs.

Third man on the ring will be Tony Weeks while judges are CJ Ross, Glenn Trowbridge, and Ray Hawkins.

The Viloria-Aguirre match is expected to steal the limelight as it pits the pride of two nations—the Philippines and Mexico. The bout also comes at the heels of Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao's masterful shaming of Mexican hombre Erik Morales last Jan. 21.

The Freddie Roach-trained Viloria, considered the heavier puncher between the two, will have to deal with the vast ring experience as well as the lateral skills of Aguirre if he is to retain his WBC title, which he earned at the expense of another Mexican, Eric Ortiz.

A win today will give Viloria a bargaining chip to call out flyweight Jorge Arce, the interim WBC champ, in what could be a mega-buck fight in the smaller weight division.

"I'm even better prepared than when I fought Ortiz," Viloria told Fightnews. "I sparred with more and better sparring partners this time."

Viloria's sparmates were Filipinos Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, Z Gorres and Diosdado Gabi.

Aguirre, managed by Erik Morales, hopes to become a two-division world champion and end the Filipinos' winning streak against Mexican fighters.

Viloria said he is ready to go 12 rounds, adding that he isn't going into the ring with a secret weapon.

"My game plan is to be me," he said. "I know I have to use my speed and power since I know I'm faster and stronger than him."

"I'm proud to be Pinoy," said Viloria. "I want to show the world who we are through boxing."

The "Real Warriors" match will also have live feeds on selected SM Cinemas and Robinson's Movieworld nationwide with Pacquiao and boxing commentator Quinito Henson giving the blow-by-blow account. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

TALE OF THE TAPE

VILORIA		AGUIRRE
18-0, 12 KO's	**Record (w-l-d)**	33-4-1, 20 KO's
Waipahu, Hawaii	**Hometown**	Tabasco, Mexico
25	**Age**	30
5'4	**Height**	5'3
19	**Total Fights**	38
Orthodox	**Stance**	Orthodox
1	**World title bouts**	11
4 year, 4 mos	**Career Span**	11 years
66%	**KO Percentage**	60%

Pacquiao-Larios up

THE BIG TUNE-UP BOUT FOR SUperstar Manny Pacquiao will be against former WBC superbantam king Oscar "Chololo" Larios, and it has been set on May 20 at a venue in Manila to be determined later.

Reports coming out of Mexico indicated that Larios adviser Rafael Mendoza has already agreed to the terms and conditions of the fight, which will be over 10 rounds and not for Pacquiao's title.

Pacquiao, the charismatic southpaw from General Santos, will face Mexican Erik Morales in a rubbermatch on Sept. 16 in Las Vegas.

No venue has been set for the Larios fight yet, though the Araneta Coliseum seems to be the front-runner to snag the event.

Among those considered to fight in the undercard are WBC light-flyweight kingpin Brian Viloria, WBO Asia Pacific bantam titlist Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, WBC No. 1 minimumweight and OPBF champ Rodel Mayol, OPBF super-feather ruler Randy Suico, and RP super-feather king Jimrex Jaca.

In choosing Larios (56-4-1, 36 KO's), Pacquiao picked a dangerous opponent who has the tools to beat him in front of his countrymen. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

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Canlubang virtual titlist

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

DAVAO—THE MOST SUCcessful team in the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament has virtually added the Seniors division title to its glowing roster of achievements.

Led by its longtime star Tommy Manotoc, Canlubang all but settled the championship for players 55 years and above right in the first round yesterday by amassing a five-man score of 246 to open up a huge 20-point lead over defending champion Luisita and Alabang.

Manotoc, who shot a medal score of 2-over-par 74 at Lanang for 52 points, said only a monumental collapse in the final round at Apo today could stop the Laguna-based squad from clinching its first Seniors crown after ruling the men's regular championship a record 12 times.

Bing Bunye, a two-time member of the RP seniors team, accounted for one of the two 50 points submitted for the day as main backup for Manotoc, who is gunning for a third straight individual title .

Rollie Viray added 49 points, Bayo Adriano contributed 48 and Lino Magpantay rounded out Canlubang's output under the eight-to-play, five-to-count format with a 47.

So overpowering was Canlubang's show that the 46 of Tony Olives and 45 of Luigi Yulo did not count.

Missing the sick Alex Montelibano and with Iggy Clavecilla still weak from a recent food poisoning, Luisita stumbled out of the starting gate in its bid for a record sixth straight title, getting no more than 226 points along with Alabang which drew the day's second 50-pointer from Mike Osmena.

The Luisitans could get only a leading 48 points from PSC commissioner Richie Garcia. To cap their misfortunes, the off-form Clavecilla, last year's Asean senior champion, not only did not count but he ended up as the team's lowest scorer with 39.

Making today's fight for second place interesting was Manila Southwoods, the defending men's Regular title next week which stood just a point off Luisita and Alabang at 225.

"I hit the ball very well but Lanang was tough with its slow greens and tight pin placements," said Manotoc, who birdied the 18th hole to cap his 36-38 round.

Still undergoing rehab for an ailing back that derailed his

CANLUBANG/ A24

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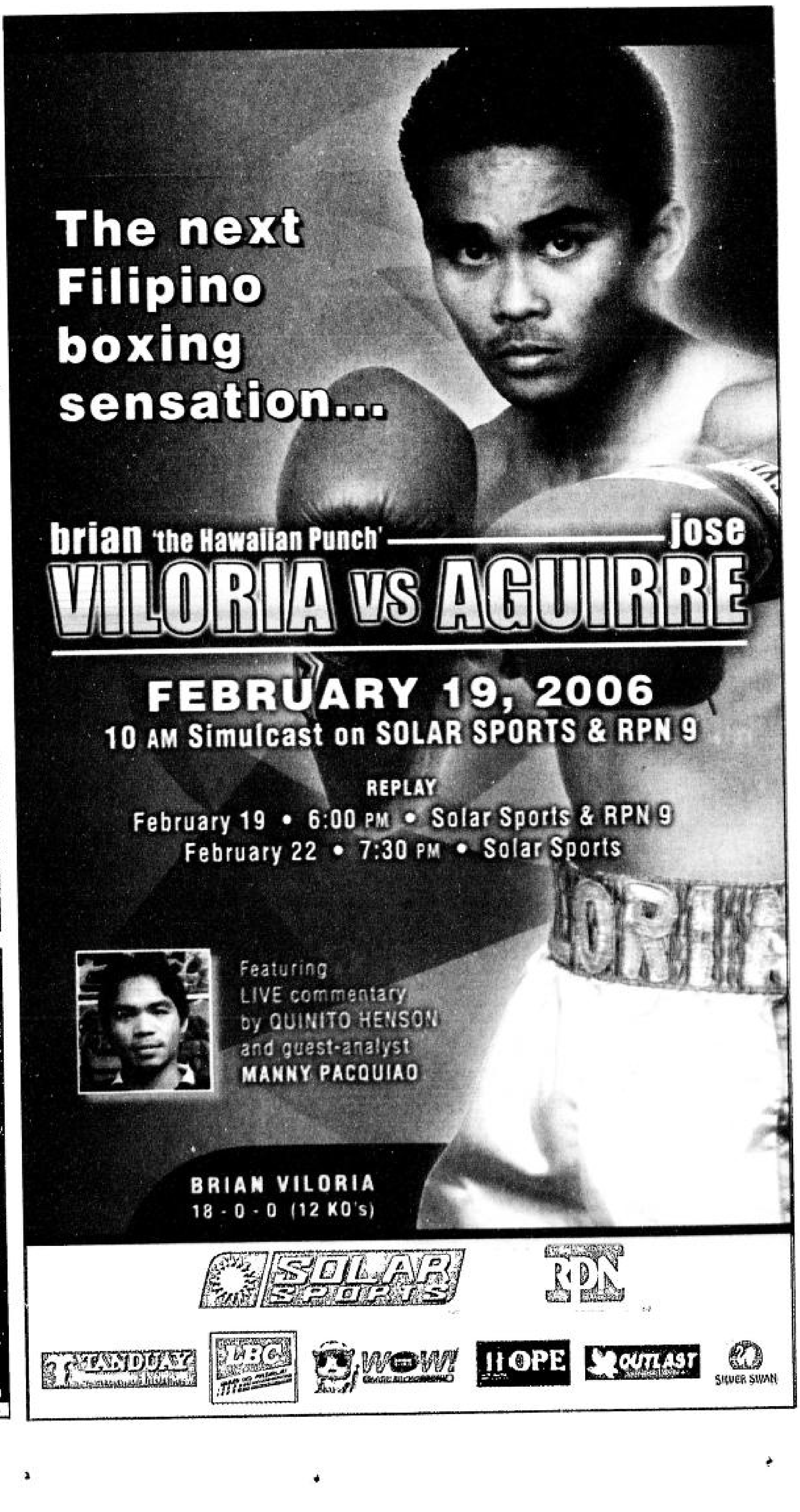

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Canlubang. . .

From page A23

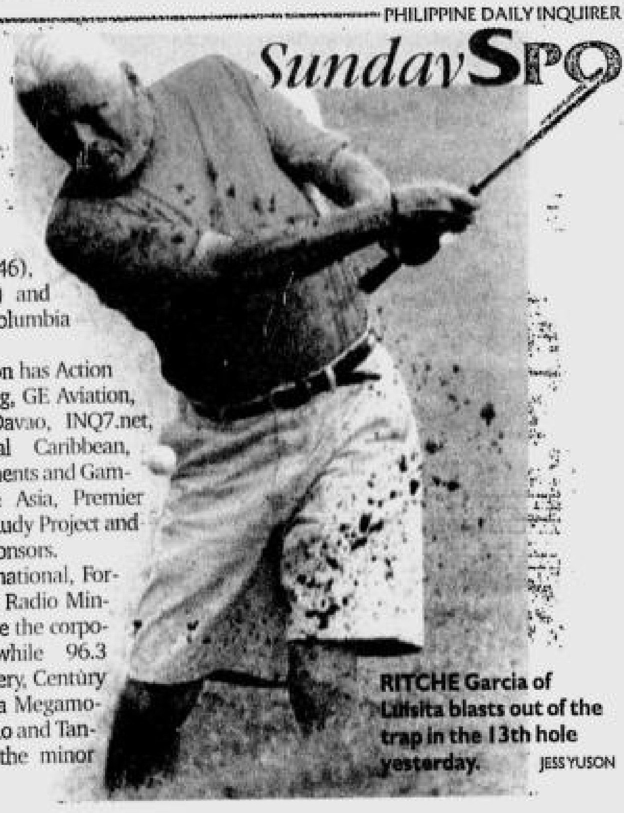
Asean seniors campaign last year, Manotoc parred the first nine holes, bogeyed three of his first six holes coming home before nailing a birdie on the last hole in his first competitive round since November.

Wack Wack, with president and Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos scoring 47 along with Japanese Taira Takanobo, totaled 227 for a five-point the Founders Division lead over Negros Occidental. Defending champion Villamor was in third with a 220 with Manila Golf and Valley tied for fourth with 207s.

As expected, the Friendship Division became a private preserve of the international teams with Mabuhay Golf Club of San Francisco (373) topping the championship over Bay Area (346). Fil-Am SFO (324) and PGA British Columbia (320).

This year's edition has Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, GMA 7, Honda-Davao, INQ7.net, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean, Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp., People Asia, Premier Wine and Spirits, Rudy Project and UMBN as major sponsors.

ABS-CBN International, Fortune Tobacco and Radio Mindanao Network are the corporate sponsors while 96.3 Wrock, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Honda Megamotors, SM City Davao and Tanduay Rhum are the minor sponsors.



RITCHE Garcia of Luisita blasts out of the trap in the 13th hole yesterday. JESS YUSON

Bulls eye plum vs Giants today

SINCE THE SERIES BEGAN, MARQUIN CHANdler has always been a puzzle for Red Bull. With the championship trophy within grasp, the Bulls are no longer interested in trying to decipher him.

Instead, the Bulls hope to match the emotions of the fiery Purefoods import as they seek to claim the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals against the Giants today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Chandler plays with a lot of emotion," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after the Bulls took a 3-2 edge in the best-of-seven championship series that moved them within a game of the crown. "If that emotion rubs off on the team, they play well."

"But this is [also] the way we want to play," added Guiao, gunning for a fifth coaching title and first in four seasons after Red Bull's back-to-back championships in the 2001 and 2002 Commissioner's Cup. "High emotions, getting a little physical and rough, that's how we survived Ginebra and Alaska."

Offense for the Giants emanates from Chandler, but the Bulls have learned to accept the difficulty—or improbability—of stopping the conference's best import.

Averaging 29 points in the series, Chandler erupted in Game 5 with 43 points, 18 of them in third that tied the output of the entire Bulls for that quarter.

"Chandler has been a problem for the past five games and he's not going away in Game 6," said Guiao.

James Penny has also posted handsome figures in the series and last Friday's game was the gauge on how the Red Bull import could carry his team if he wants to.

Penny scored 10 of his 31 points in the fourth, allowing the Bulls to cut loose before rookie Larry Fonacier snuffed the Giants with a three-pointer and four straight free throws for a big 91-86 win.

The match-ups between Penny and Chandler, best player of the conference Enrico Villanueva and Kerby Raymundo and Cyrus Baguio and James Yap are the crucial factors in today's match.

June Navarro

GAME TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
5:45 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Purefoods
Game 1—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 107-102 (OT)
Game 2—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 98-84
Game 3—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 103-97
Game 4—Purefoods d. Red Bull, 96-91
Game 5—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 91-86

Wack Wack makes it four straight

VISITING WACK WACK SUSTAINED its hot streak after a hard-earned 2-1 victory over Royal Northwoods of Bulacan in the Ladies Federation Golf League action in various courses recently.

Claudette Santiago and Katya dela Cruz clinched the fourth straight win of Wack Wack when they took the aggregate play on the last hole after both teams split the first two formats.

Bing Liboro and Elo Campos won the foursomes by a rout for Wack Wack but Northwoods battled back through Liza McKay and Josie Catan who took the high-low via a 2 up result.

Wack Wack thus completed a sweep of its matches in the first half of eliminations and remained the only unbeaten team in the field. Now with 8 points, Wack Wack stayed a point ahead of defending champion Tagaytay Highlands in Group I.

Henry J, Calauag & PAL Interclub

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I MET A GUY JUST A WHILE back who loves sports and music as much as I do. His name is Henry J. Tan. The "J" stands for Jainab. Henry is also known as Henry J, but that is getting ahead of the story.

Henry prides himself in being a Tausug. Born in Jolo, Sulu, Henry, in his mid-50s, was well on the way to setting up his business in his land of birth when tragedy struck. Jolo burned at the height of martial law.

Not wanting to abandon his dream, he moved to Cagayan de Oro where he put up the early stirrings of what is now known as a thriving garments empire in the so-called City of Golden Friendship.

Today, Henry's Modtrade dress outlets specializing in men's, women's and children's apparel are all over Cagayan de Oro—at SM, Limketkai Gaisano and many others. His elegantly-styled golf T-shirts sell like hotcakes at the pro shops of Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan and Del Monte Golf Club in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. He is, by any yardstick of success, "made."

With his success, he could have, long ago, elected to just coast along, drink San Mig beer (his favorite) by the rocking chair while watching sunset after sunset. But no, a music lover, he resuscitated his old flame: Build a band of his own. In no time, his instruments had been completed, so complete they'd make other bands stare them with envy.

But unlike other bands, Henry's band doesn't play commercially. It's just mainly for home consumption and family, if not social, occasions.

Henry can sing and play many instruments like the guitar, piano and drums. Even the conga. He likes virtually all kinds of music although he is partial to jazz and, yes, you guessed it, The Beatles.

"Like you, I also grew up liking The Beatles," he said to me over beer, spam and "*paklay*" some days back.

His liking for jazz soon saw himself wanting his two sons, both members of his band, to learn how to play the saxophone. But when his sons refused, Henry did the learning himself. Today, when he plays the sax, he can be mistaken for the legendary Kenny G. Thus, the name Henry J is famous in Cagayan de Oro as a great sax player. He has put on CD a recording of his favorites on the sax. I tell you, Henry J, whose wife hails from Agno, Pangasinan, can compare with, if not equal, the talent of Kenny G.

"Henry has become a legend here that he is also known as Mr. Jack of All Talents," said Tom Garcia, my golf mate who is a bosom friend of Henry's. "Yet, he is humble—the most humble I guess in all of Cagayan de Oro."

Here's to you, Henry J!

* * *

A sojourn down south in Calauag, Quezon, will end, sadly, today, Feb. 19, as I head back to the so-called "rat race" that is the Big City. Oh, well, as the saying goes, "All good things must pass." Put in another way, "It's not Christmas every day."

Nothing lasts forever.

It, sure, was fun.

Drink flowed almost nonstop, what with fellow drinkers like Joven Vito Florido, Louie S. Visorde, Franklin Leonor, Roger Lim, Tito J. Laurel and Dante T. Fernandez keeping me company for four days. I particularly enjoyed that stint in the sea, sand and shore in the island of Capaluhan, the last remaining virgin beach in Quezon. It's no Boracay, but Capaluhan's just right for me. Modestly beautiful and not gaudily pretentious.

This Sol Juvida country boasts of sweet, juicy prawns and, yes, Calauag's crabs, well, even Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez yearns for them every now and then.

I have yet to see a crab bigger than Calauag's and as delicious as Calauag's.

No wonder the late President Quezon made Calauag his favorite vacation place when he was still around.

* * *

The next big coverage for me is the PAL Interclub (Feb. 20-25) in Davao City, home of "Dirty Harry" a.k.a. City Mayor Rudy Duterte, a golf buddy of mine whose favorite watering hole is "After Dark." The joint is owned by none other than another great buddy of mine, Ken Angeles.

It was at "After Dark" where GMA had retreated to one night to kill the monotony of a sheltered life—to the consternation of her Palace coterie and security that were all caught flat-footed as the President's trip to "After Dark" was unscheduled.

I always look forward to covering the PAL Interclub yearly, one reason being that I can renew ties with Lucio Tan's top lieutenants like Jimmy Bautista, Henry So Uy, Bong Cruz, Doming Duerme, Jess Garcia and, yes, Rollie Estabillo—all VIPs as in Very Impressive Persons.

See you all in a while, fellas.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

PFF 'godfather' not after presidency

THE FOOTBALL "GODFATHER" whom Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez accused as the brains behind an ouster move, yesterday said that he was just speaking his mind and should not be held at fault.

Jose Vito "Pocholo" Borromeo also denied that he is masterminding a plot to unseat Romualdez.

Borromeo, however, said that he "could not keep silent anymore, because the state of football in the country has gone from bad to worse under his (Romualdez) watch."

Borromeo, the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA) president, said that he could not fathom why a chance meeting with fellow football association heads last week was construed by the PFF as political.

"I was actually surprised when I learned that we (fellow presidents) shared the same sentiments," Borromeo said. "Football leaders in other regions know for a fact that the (PFF) leadership is not producing the desired results."

Borromeo said that despite a huge assistance from the world governing body Fifa, there has been no solid grassroots development program for the sport and that the PFF had to resort to "importing" players from abroad for the Southeast Asian Games last month.

The meeting, which took place in Rockwell, did not discuss moves to oust Romualdez, "but make him become a proper president for football in the Philippines.

BORROMEO

Spring Oil battles Pagadian for crown

TAGAYTAY CITY—IT'S SPRING Cooking Oil against Pagadian Explorers in the finals of the National Basketball Conference's fourth preseason tournament at the International Convention Center here.

Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers earned the title shot by turning back NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters, 79-74, last Friday.

Ex-pros Peter Naron and Bong Marata delivered the shots that mattered as the Explorers rallied from 79-74 in the final minute to nose ahead 76-74 with 8.5 seconds left.

The victory enabled the Explorers to match's Spring's 2-win, 1-loss record in the tourney sponsored by Molten, nature's Spring, Prime Channel, Spring Cooking Oil and Sulpicio Lines.

AGUILAR struts winning form.

Aguilar banners RP drive in Supercross

DEFENDING CHAMPION GLENN Aguilar of the Philippines is expected to meet a strong challenge from James Robinson of New Zealand in the Camel Supercross International Championship Series 2006 starting today at the RBL Stadium in Talisay City.

Revtex Rocket Aguilar and emerging star Robinson lead the riders vying in the centerpiece expert open category in the series sponsored by Camel and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA).

"I expect another tight battle in Talisay this weekend," said Aguilar, who recently bagged his 9th Rider of the Year title. "I'm looking forward to riding against James (Robinson) again, especially after our tight battle in last year's Camel race in Iloilo City."

Aguilar, who is also backed by Sidi Boots, Renthal, Oakley, Flamboyant Construction, HJC Helmets, Sea Palace Restaurant, GCG Pipes, Bridgestone and Pro Grip; will be supported by youthful Kenneth San Andres.

The Revtex team is coming off four victories in the 2006 San Fernando La Union Invitational Motocross.

Also expected to put up a good fight is multi-titled Jovie Saulog.

Talisay City Mayor Eric Saratan will welcome the participants and guests during the opening ceremony at 9 a.m. For inquiries, call NAMSSA at 0917-8992363.

SPORTSWATCH

Gonzales downs French

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER CANDIDATE JAYSON GONZALES BEAT GUILLAME Chanoine of France in the eighth and penultimate round Friday night in the 20th International Cannes Chess Festival at the Palais Festival Hall in Cannes, France. Gonzales improved to 5.0 points on four wins, two draws and two losses. Paris-based IM Joseph Sanchez bowed to GM Ivan Ivanisevic of Serbia and Montenegro and stayed at 4.5 points in the company of countryman GM Nelson Mariano II, who drew with Vincent Riff of France. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Golf Power features Adamson teams

GOLF POWER PLUS FEATURES AT 3 P.M. TODAY THE SEMIFINAL MATCH BEtween Adamson University Team 1 and Adamson University Team 3 in the 1st Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge. The game was played at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired over RPN-9 and ABS-CBN's Pinoy Channel TV. Fistorama follows at 3:30 p.m. In the main event, top-rated Joel Escol faces Ariel Delgado in 10 rounds at 122 lbs.

Prizes galore up in JVC jrs tilt

FABULOUS PRIZES, RANGING FROM JVC GIFT ITEMS TO L-TIME STUDIO watches to Pioneer personal and educational plans, will be up for grabs in the JVC Open Juniors Championships which fire off March 25-26 at SM Megamall. Registration is free. Deadline for submission of entries is on March 15. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the event's website and can be sent through fax at 894-2995 and 892-9866. For details, call 894-2995, 8929866, 725-2568 or txt 0917 8050702 (Tonette), 0917-805-0601 (Carol) or 0917-532-8970 (Nelson). Log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or email at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.

Marikina hosts 2nd CSI criterium

THE CYCLING SEARCH INVITATIONAL (CSI) CRITERIUM RACE GOES TO Marikina when the second leg of the 10-stage series featuring the country's top riders is staged at the Marikina Heights Liwasan Kalayaan on Feb. 25. Albert Primero, spearhead of Agnes Bikeshop Team, shoots for a second straight victory in the nationwide series presented by Philpost after topping the kickoff leg in Tarlac City last month in the centerpiece men's elite and under-23 division. Also on tap are the youth, executive and masters categories. Contact organizing Treo Sales and Management Corp. at 241-0415 or 241-0418.

Heritage Cup at Araneta Tuesday

THE PHILIPPINE HERITAGE CUP 2006 5-COCK DERBY SERIES, THE MAIDEN project of the Luzon—Based Gamecock Breeders Association (LBGBA), unfolds on Tuesday and Thursday at the 20,000-seat Araneta Coliseum. Breeders from member groups, as well as guest participants, are requested to submit their entries tomorrow at the Araneta green gate, from 2-9 p.m. or call 911-2928 and 911 -3101 for particulars. Each day of action dangles a guaranteed prize of P600,000 or a total of P1.2 million. Entry fee is P10,000. The LBGBA is composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba. Backing up the derby are Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace.

PCAP derby set Feb. 20

THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) 5-COCK DERby series resumes tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum. B-Meg Derby Ace Premium Formula is exclusive sponsor. Aficionados can expect 70 fights in all PCAP derbies, according to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Entries must be presented today at Makati Coliseum from 2- 9 p.m. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

SJC 5-cocker lures 35 bets

BIG-TIME COCKERS FROM CENTRAL LUZON AND METRO MANILA WILL clash at the San Juan Coliseum on Wednesday via the RQP SJC 5-cock derby. No less than 35 participants are seeing action, according to derby host R. Pineda, who recently topped the NCA World Championship 8-cock derby. The derby will start at 4 p.m.," said SJC pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Renato Shio. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P22,000. Contact 725-5369.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Helmsman (6), Mischevous (8), Scarlet Skyterror (7), Dancing Queen (2)
Race 2—(Penta/Tri)—Kilimanjaro (7), Valid Hazm (6), Gorgeous Sand (1), Macali Haven/Princess Inn (5), Mr. Bonjing/Walup Forever (10)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Summer Gear (4), Coromell (5), Toowoomba (3), Don't Tell Ella (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Phoenix (4), Galaxy Wars (1), Eden's Quest (7), Sovereign Dancer (2)
Race 5—(Tri)—Tres Jeune (3), Hula Sunrise (2), Kalima (4)
Race 6—(Super 6/Tri)—Dashing (9), Virgin Island (1), Smooth Strike (6), Dazzling Affair (4), Batang Kalookan (8), Britney's Magic (5)
Race 7—Wild Orchid (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Tri)—Romario (9), Bold Lucky (10), Alessandra (6), Nico's In Charge (4), God Is Good (8), Wild Orphan (13)
Race 9—(Tri)—I Love This Game (3), Honour Dance (4), Earl Gray/Mara Making (5)
Race 10—(Penta/Tri)—Aminin (10), Joko Only (12), Ichiro (11), Sira Boom (9), Time Enchanted (4)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Play It Again (10) West Swinger (2), Hakogal (7), Mandalay Bay (3) Ocean Dignity/Long Road (9)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Sir Henry (2), Crystal City/Mikaela Mia (6), King's Choice (8), Ilocos Pride (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Hezabelagro (4), Miss Vicky (10), Cool Operator (0), American Idol (8), Dynamic Jason (3), Ravishing Rally (2)

Lazaro, Morales split honors

SUBIC—MIGUEL LAZARO OF VELOCIty Motors-H&R-Race Fans Team split honors with arch rival Renan Morales of Shift Racing recently in the fifth and penultimate round of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 at the Subic International Raceway.

Lazaro earned the pole at the grid being the fastest in the qualifying run but lost it to Morales who managed to squeeze in at the start and wrest the top spot on the second lap of the morning race in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Morales pulled away on the fourth lap in the event sponsored by Bendix Brakes, Rota Wheels, Johnny Walker, Philippine Star, Smirnoff Ice, A-toy, Gadgets & CI Magazines, Home Radio 97.9, DWIZ 88.2, KTC Tools and Autoindustriya.com.

MIGUEL Lazaro (center) shows his trophy for winning the afternoon race in the fifth leg of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005. With him and race beauties are third placer Peewee Mendiola (left) and runner-up Renan Morales of Shirt Racing.

Other AI shines for sophomores

Iverson teammate named MVP in All-Star Rookie Challenge

HOUSTON, TEXAS—ANDRE Iguodala scored 24 of his 30 points in the second half on Friday as the National Basketball Association's Sophomores kicked off All-Star weekend with a 106-96 win over the Rookies.

IGUODALA: Flurry of dunks. AP

A second-year swingman with the Philadelphia 76ers, Iguodala usually is overshadowed by superstar teammates Allen "AI" Iverson and Chris Webber. He is better known for his defense, which has no place in this game, known as the Rookie Challenge, that pits first-year NBA stars against second-year talent.

After a quiet first half, Iguodala erupted with a flurry of dunks and 3-pointers as the Sophomores notched their fourth straight win. He made 13-of-17 shots—two of the misses were dunks—and was named Most Valuable Player.

Eight of the first 11 Rookie Challenge MVPs went on to play in at least one All-Star Game.

"A lot of great players have started out with this award, so hopefully the dream can continue," Iguodala said.

All eyes on Kobe

Meanwhile, Kobe Bryant won't make any predictions about how many he'll put up on Sunday in the NBA All-Star game, even though scoring has made him the biggest attraction in the league during the first half of the season.

"I just look forward to going out there and winning the game, playing defense [and] doing whatever we need to win the game," he said.

The possibilities seem endless. After scoring 81 points in a game this season, imagine how many Bryant can get in a game where there is little defense played.

"I think it's fun to have the discussions about Kobe," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "I think it's a terrific water cooler subject. Can he go for 100? Can he outscore a team by himself?"

The latter seems unlikely, given that the Eastern Conference counters with Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Cleveland's LeBron James, who trail Bryant in what is shaping up as the most exciting scoring race in years.

Bryant went into the break averaging 35 points, with Iverson at 33.2 and James at 31.2.

The All-Star game record, by the way, is 42 points, and Bryant wasn't surprised at all to learn who held it.

"Wilt [Camberlain]? Oh, couldn't have guessed that one," he said with a smile. *AFP, AP*

SOLAR SPORTS will host a live viewing party of this year's NBA All-Star Game tomorrow at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3. The event starts at 9 a.m.

Letran dumps CCDC cagers

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOciation champion Letran dumped Cordillera Career Development College, 93-49, yesterday at the start of the National Students Basketball Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

In another group A match, San Sebastian College-Recoletos of Cavite routed Tarlac State University, 106-37. In group B, Manuel L. Quezon University trounced Universidad de Zamboanga, 76-59.

High School division action saw UAAP champion La Salle-Zobel whip Don Bosco of Tarlac, 120-54 and Philippine Christian University thwart Holy Child of Davao, 89-78, at the EAC Gym.

Miñoza 8 down as rains fall; injured Rosales calls it quits

FILIPINO FRANKIE MIÑOZA STOOD EIGHT shots behind leader Thammanoon Srirot of Thailand in the Malaysian Open Saturday at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club after a postponed third round.

Srirot took the lead with a birdie in his first hole, the only hole he played, for a 13 under total. Miñoza was one over for the day after six holes and dropped to five under.

Second round leader David Park bogeyed his first hole and dropped to 12 under, one shot off the pace together with Thongchai Jaidee, who was even for the day after playing just one hole.

The event, whose second round was also delayed because of a storm, resumes with the third round early Sunday morning.

In Kahuku, Hawaii, defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines withdrew from the SBS Open tournament with an injured finger on her right hand.

She was 5 over for the tournament and 3 over for the day when she withdrew at the turn.

Joo Mi Kim tied the tournament record with a 7-under 65 for a share of the second-round lead with Sung Ah Yim (66) and Becky Iverson at 9-under 135.

FEU, San Beda strike anew

FAR EASTERN University and San Beda College continued to sizzle, posting easy victories on their home fronts to stay entrenched at the top two spots in men's basketball in the Home and Away Invitational League. FEU defeated University of Sto. Tomas, 83-69, while the Red Lions trounced Emilio Aguinaldo College, 77-53, in the tournament sponsored by Adidas, the official outfitter, and Sunbolt, the official drink. The Tamaraws, who remained on top of the leaderboard with a 5-2 (won-lost) card, actually led from the start and never relinquished their grip of the lead up until the final buzzer. The Red Lions were just as relentless and raced to a ten point-lead against the Generals and never let up. In other results, Ateneo de Manila's men's and women's teams outclassed their counterparts from College of St. Benilde's. The Blue Eagles nipped CSB, 79-61, while the Lady Eagles routed the Lady Blazers, 69-46.

Nestea beach volley set

A TOTAL of 72 teams from 43 colleges and universities from across the country see action in next month's qualifiers of the 10th Nestea Beach Volleyball championships in May. Qualifying matches in La Salle, Greenhills for the Luzon teams fire off on March 21 to 23, while teams coming from the Visayas and Mindanao slug it out on March 28 to 30 in the same venue. The semifinal and championship rounds will be played in Boracay from May 4 to 6 with over P500,000 in prize money and merchandise to be staked. Special individual awards for both the men's and women's divisions will also be given away. The event is sponsored by Speedo, Mikasa, Cebu Pacific, Le Soleil de Boracay, Canon Powershot, Club Ten Resort, Hey Jude Resort, Villa de Oro Boracay Beach Resort, Coppertone, La Salle Greenhills, D'Mall Boracay, ClicktheCity.com, Crystal San Resort, Boracay Gold Crowne, Bantay Kalikasan and Nautilus by PJ Arañador.

KT WINNERS
Indy Villalon of Team Birel (center) emerged the day's champion after topping the kickoff leg of the 2006 KT Invitational Challenge held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Joining him are (L-R) fifth placer Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group-Phils., runner-up Marty Aguilar of Bosch Intelco, third placer Ivan Carapiet of Team Birel and fourth placer Alessandra Madrigal of Alessandra Racing Group. Round 2 is scheduled for Feb. 11 also at the Carmona track.

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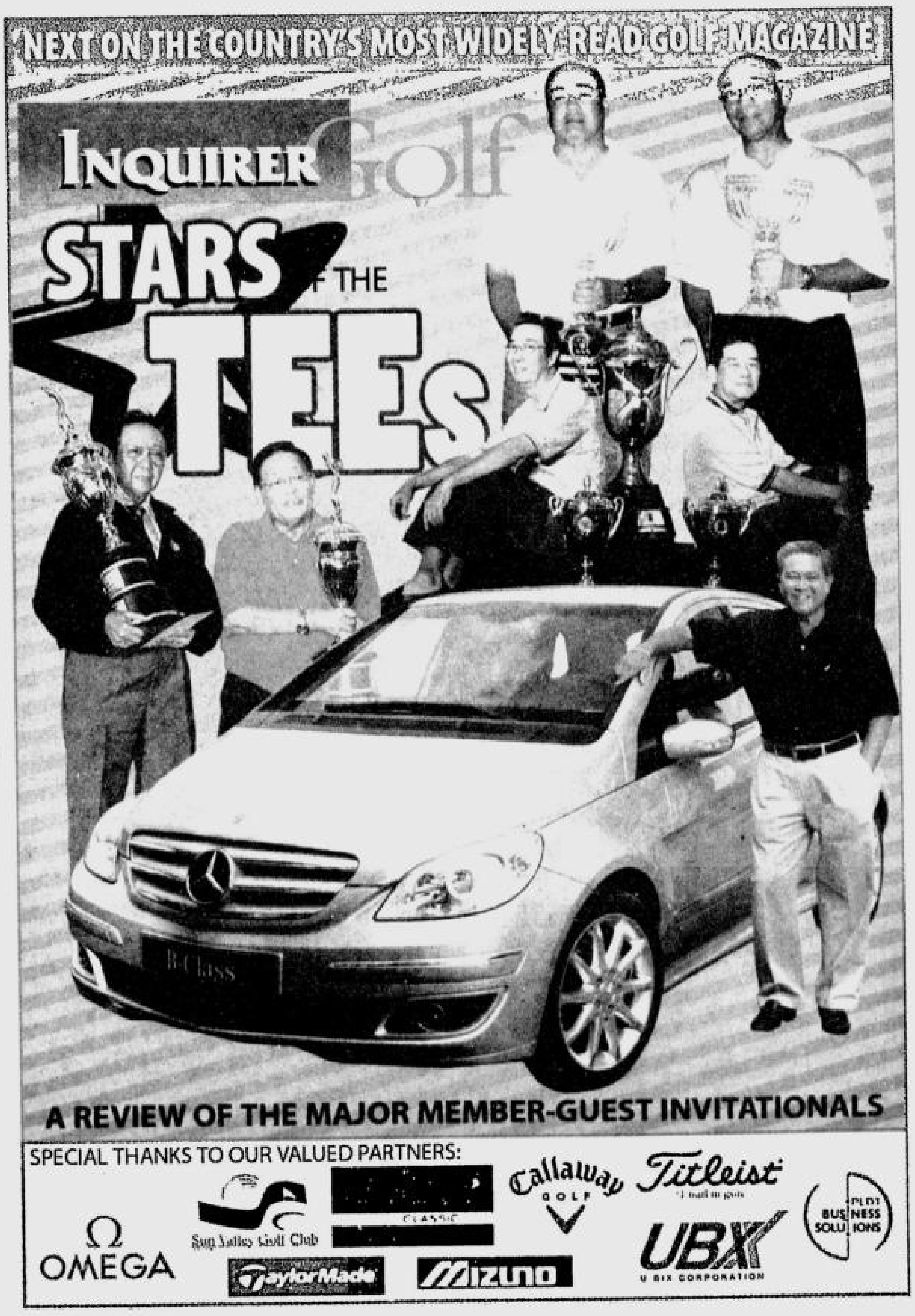

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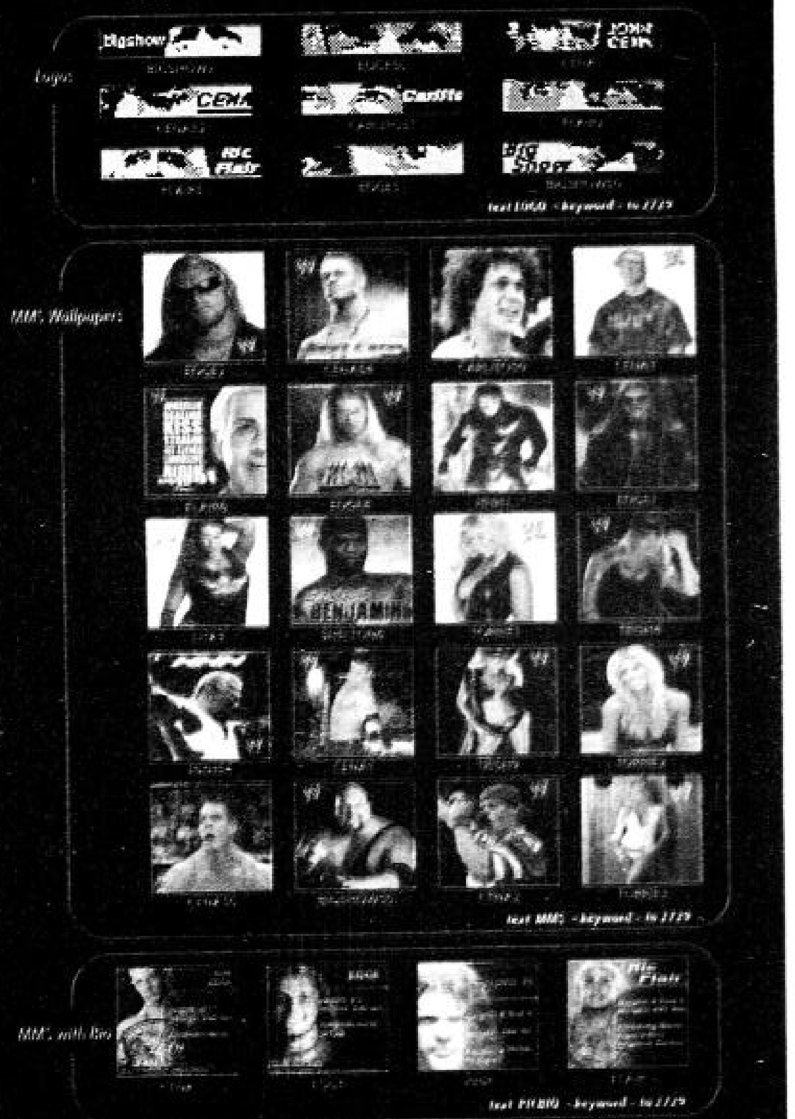
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

JOSE "Sway" Penala (extreme left) with fellow "American Idol" Season 5 finalists.

Money 'for a sting, not for ransom,' says OMB

Manzano takes on Martinez

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MONEY SUPPOSEDLY PAID by producers to film pirates was for a "sting operation," said Edu Manzano, head of the Optical Media Board (OMB).

It was not, Manzano said, for the "ransom" of Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entries "hostaged" by the pirates, as charged by Leo Martinez, director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP).

The OMB chief recounted that a week before the festival opened on Dec. 25, board operatives sent word around Quiapo that there was a demand for pirated discs of MMFF entries.

No one took the bait. "Until the 23rd or 24th," Manzano said. The operatives demanded "masters," from which copies are made, and told the pirates that they didn't want to see any copies in the market "because that would lessen the value of the masters."

The operatives received the merchandise on Jan. 15.

That same day, Manzano said, two pirates were arrested "in SM Manila"—Gabriel and Christopher Golez.

Christopher, according to Manzano, is a cameraman who is in cahoots with Caloocan Gotesco

MONEY/ A2-2

Fil-Am among 'Idol's' top 24

By Kathryn L. Reyes

ANOTHER FIL-AM TALENT HAS MADE IT TO the top 24 of the widely popular talent search, "American Idol."

Jose "Sway" Penala turned 28 on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), when the final crop was selected during proceedings in Pasadena, California.

Out of thousands who auditioned from all over the United States, 200 had been sent to Hollywood for the qualifying rounds.

Sway said he felt "numb" when judges Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell told him he was through to the next level.

"It's still sinking in," he said in an interview on Friday.

Unexpected obstacle

It hadn't come easy for Sway, whose eligibility was questioned earlier.

He was said to have been part of a band with a recording contract when he auditioned for AI in August. Contest rules banned anyone signed to a recording or talent management contract.

The issue was put to rest when AI producer Ken Warwick announced on Feb. 3 that Sway was "still absolutely in the show" since the Fil-Am singer had dropped the contract as soon as he passed the auditions in San Francisco.

SWAY sang "Superstar" for his audition in San Francisco.

From childhood

A product of La Salle Greenhills, Sway migrated to the US with his family in 1989. His parents are investment bankers. In his latest interview (on the website idolonfox.com), he said he would land in real estate if he didn't make it on "Idol."

He spent his teenage years in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he formed singing groups. His passion for music had been apparent since he was 7.

FIL-AM/ A2-2

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FILIPINAS NATIONWIDE ARE DISCOVERING PEKAS-FREE SKIN IN 8 WEEKS with Pynocare 40 Actisome

There was a time when Filipinas used to suffer in silence from "pekas", a skin disorder clinically known as "melasma". They would look in the mirror everyday and desperately find ways to conceal the dark blemishes on their faces. In their search for a product that would work, they have tried astringents, topical creams and have even consulted dermatologists for an effective treatment. This search not only had them spending an enormous amount of money, time and effort, but also left them frustrated and hopeless with the lack of lasting results.

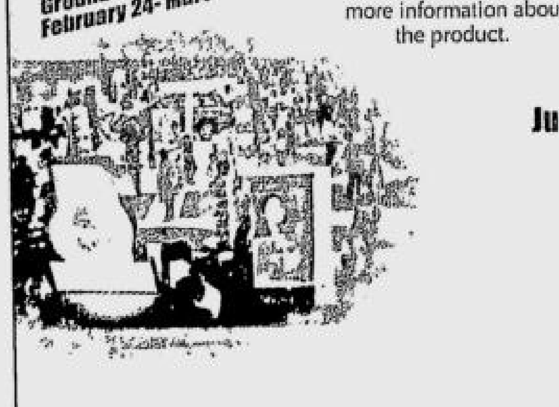
But all of these changed when they discovered Pynocare 40 Actisome. The revolutionary first oral treatment from Mega We Care has changed the lives of women from all over the Philippines by effectively treating melasma or "pekas". With just 2 capsules a day for at least 8 weeks, Pynocare users have witnessed the transformation right before their very eyes!

As part of Mega We Care's initiative to help Filipinas achieve pekas-free skin, the "Pekas-Free Filipina" mall activation tour was launched last year. Starting in Metro Manila, the road show went on to share the good news with women in Cebu and then on to Davao, Batangas and Pampanga, where inquiries were gathered from ladies who wanted more information about the product.

Catch the Pekas-Free Filipina Mall Tour in major malls nationwide:

Robinson's Manila
Level 1- Fountain Area
February 11-16

SM City Cagayan de Oro
Ground Floor (Near Atrium)
February 24- March 2



As a result of Mega We Care's commitment to quality service, the successful road show will continue and will soon be visiting malls in other parts of the Philippines. Filipinas from other parts of the archipelago will soon be able to discover for themselves the wonders of pekas-free skin, thanks to Pynocare 40 Actisome's 85% efficacy rate.

Since its launch a year ago, the number of women who continue to use Pynocare keeps growing. And with the way that the Pekas-Free hotline has been receiving praises from callers, there seems to be no limit to the list of satisfied customers.

"Pekas" or Melasma facts:

- "Pekas", clinically known as Melasma, is an increased pigmentation in sun-exposed areas of the face due to overproduction of melanin in the skin.
- Melasma is a woman's curse: Female:Male Ratio 9:1 (according to International Journal of Dermatology, 2003). It usually develops among middle-aged women.
- Prolonged exposure of the skin to the UV radiation is the major risk factor. Other causative factors are:
  - cosmetics (use of astringents and peeling agents)
  - hormones (due to pregnancy, intake of oral contraceptives and anti-seizure drugs)
  - genetic influence

However, sun exposure remains the strongest risk factor.

Pynocare 40 Actisome's efficiency in treating Melasma is supported by many clinical studies done in Thailand and Malaysia. It contains a unique Melasma Skin Clear Complexion or MSCC complex that effectively lightens the dark spots caused by prolonged sun exposure and helps prevent the recurrence with continued use.

Women like Flordeliza Pamplona, Benita Vinluan, Eva Ducat, and Vicky Batu have nothing but glowing praises that are almost matched by their equally glowing pekas-free faces.

"In just after a week of usage twice a day, I noticed some sensation of tightness and firmness in my face and the dark blotches started to lighten. Even the skin in my arms, neck and my entire body became softer, finer, and firmer, and the freckles on my back and upper arm decreased dramatically."
- **Flordeliza Pamplona**, a 48-year-old housewife, who has been struggling with melasma after a trip to the beach

"During the first month, I noticed my skin started to tighten and the dark spots began to fade. I even noticed changes in the texture of my hair!"
- **Benita Vinluan**, a 38-year-old housewife, who has had melasma for years

"It wasn't just on my face. I also started noticing that the color on my arms also started to even out. Friends and family have also started noticing the difference and have complimented me about it, which makes me really happy."
- **Eva Ducat**, a 38-year-old self-employed mother of five, who started seeing results from using Pynocare 40 Actisome in as early as one month

"I have always had dry skin but when I had my skin analyzed recently, it has stabilized and is now considered normal."
- **Vicky Batu**, a 50-year-old widow and mother of two, after using Pynocare 40 Actisome

Flor, 48, Housewife

Benita, 38, Housewife

Eva, 38, Self-employed

Vicky, 50, Mother

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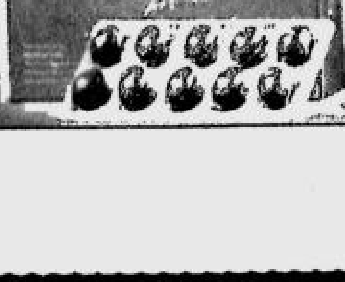

For more information on Pynocare 40 Actisome, call HOTLINE: 894-1111 • TEXT LINE: 0917-8274330

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Money for a 'sting,' not for ransom, says OM

Cinema 4. "He shot the movies either during or after screening hours," Manzano said.

He explained a "master" could also be obtained through this process.

The OMB seized three SIM cards of the Golez brothers, Manzano added, and discovered that among the names in the directory were "industry members—editors, processing people. They're supposed to be part of Mr. Martinez's FAP."

The text messages in the SIM cards detailed the duo's illegal activities and yielded the identity of the syndicate head, said Manzano: "Roger Chua, a Chinese national, aided by a certain Mar."

Manzano said that OMB, through Atty. Marivic Benedicto, first approached the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council, Inc. about the devel-

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Fil-Am am

From page A2-1

Proud mom

Sway's mother, Cristina, was at the Pasadena Civic Center when he got the coveted green light.

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BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R18 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20	GOAL GP 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	PINK PANTHER GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

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I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	GOAL 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50 MUNICH 6:00 / 9:00	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	ONLY P130 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P240/P250

AliMALL CINEMAS

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PINK PANTHER 12:00 R3 / 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:15 R4 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
FEB 19. Sunday. 6:45 pm PUREFOODS vs RED BULL

WWE RAW LIVE TOUR
FEB.24 FRI 6 pm & FEB. 25 SAT 4 pm

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NT

IB

From page A2-1

ents. “But they were not in-
ted. The council said: Go to
roducers since they stand to
the most.”

vance

nce the producers were re-
nt to shell out cash, said
zano, “I had to advance
,000 for the masters. I later
ed over four masters to Re-
producer of those movies.”

On Jan. 22, the Anti-Film Piracy Council agreed to reimburse Manzano. “I guess, [at first] they didn't appreciate the wisdom behind the operation. The pirated discs of MMFF films didn't come out for 27 days—allowing producers to recoup their investments. Since the MMFF 2005 surpassed 2004's grosses by P50 million, the council must have [eventually] realized the merit of our operations.”

Manzano explained that copies released after the film fest came from different pirates. “MMFF entries became hot items because no copies were available [during the festival] run.”

As for Martinez, Manzano is unfazed: “He should issue a public apology for implying those things about the OMB when his only basis was hearsay. He was never part of the OMB; he doesn't sit in the board of the council. It was just malicious.”

Spark

The word war between Manzano and Martinez was sparked by the reallocation of the MMFF funds, which cut the FAP and the Anti-Film Piracy Council's shares to 10 percent. The new Sharing Scheme includes the OMB and the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

public apology from the FAP

RYAN LIM

ong . . .

She was telling host Ryan Seacrest how proud she was, when her son burst into the holding room with the happy news.

Trail blazers

Former Fil-Am finalists were Camile Velasco and Jasmine Trias, who joined the third season in 2004. Trias finished third.

Winners from this point on will be determined by viewers' votes.

"American Idol" is shown live on Starworld at 6 p.m. with replays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays on Star World. ABC 5 airs it on the same days at 10 p.m. To find out more about Sway Penala, log on to www.josepenala.com.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① PINK PANTHER
MTRCB GP
12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

③ EIGA SAI 2006
2.00, 5.00, 8.00

② AEON FLUX
MTRCB R-13
12.00, 2.30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

④ BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
MTRCB R-18
1.00, 3.40, 6.20, 9.00

PREMIERE THEATRE GOAL
MTRCB GP 12.10, 2.35, 5.05, 7.30, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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for more details

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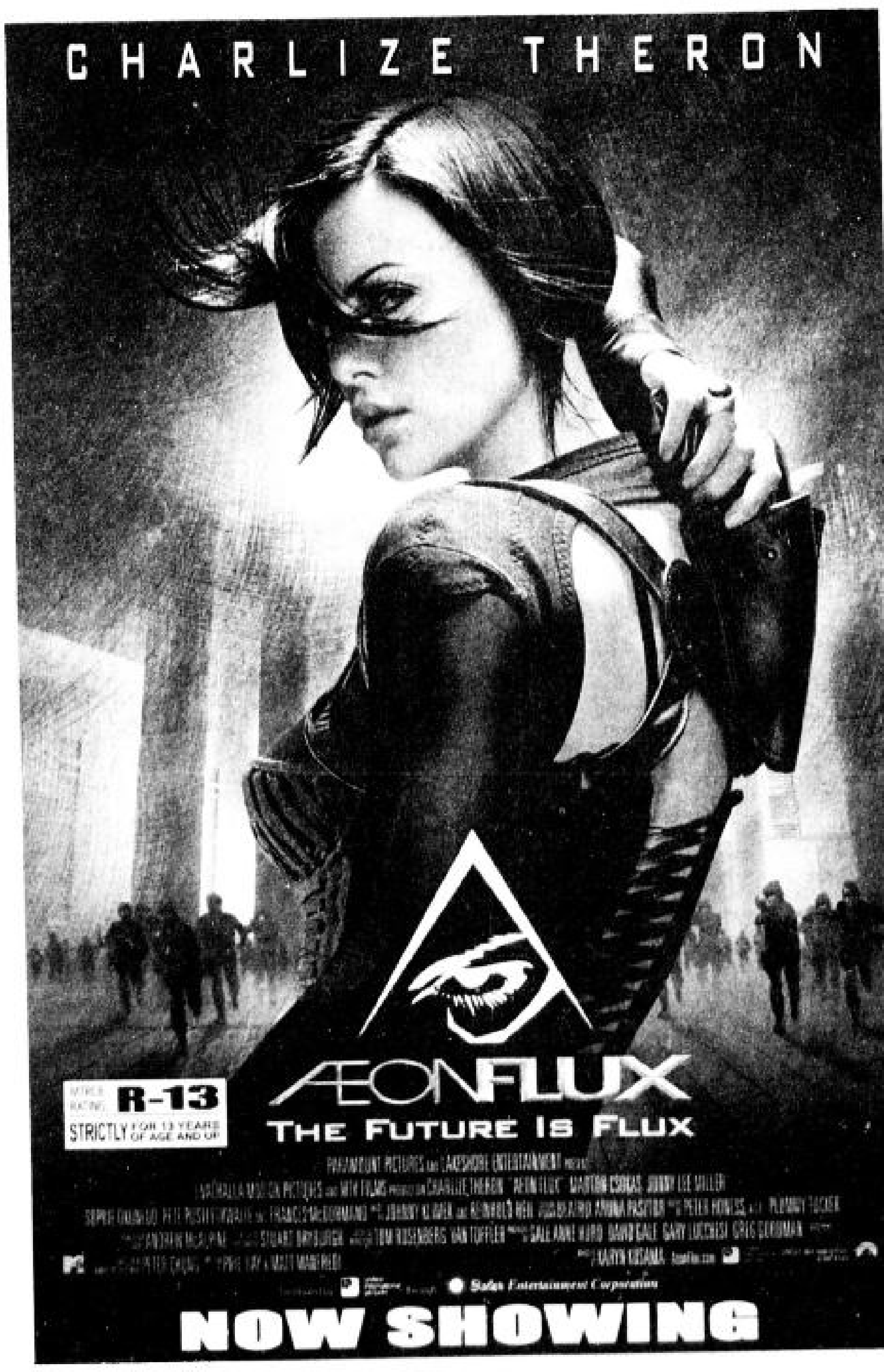
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Feb 18, 1pm & 6pm
Feb 19, 11am, 3pm & 6pm

Activity Center
Feb 24, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 25, 11am, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 26, 3pm & 6pm

Activity Center
March 1, 3pm & 6pm
March 2, 3pm & 6pm

Activity Center
March 4, 11am, 3pm & 6pm
March 5, 11am, 3pm & 6pm

Meet & greet after each show

AYALA MALLS Lovemall!

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Baby Looney Tunes in The Bwave Little Hero February 17 to 19, 2006	Nestea Activity February 18 to 19, 2006	Child Development Center of Cebu's Commencement Rites Februray 28, 2006

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THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

Cinema				
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PINK PANTHER	2 CLOSE TO YOU	3 FIREWALL	4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSE TO YOU	2 AEON FLUX	3 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FIREWALL	5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	6 PINK PANTHER	7 GOAL
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	2 PINK PANTHER		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PINK PANTHER GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 AEON FLUX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FIREWALL GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MUNICH GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN		
	3 GOAL	4 CLOSE TO YOU	5 AEON FLUX	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PINK PANTHER	2 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	3 CLOSE TO YOU	4 MUNICH

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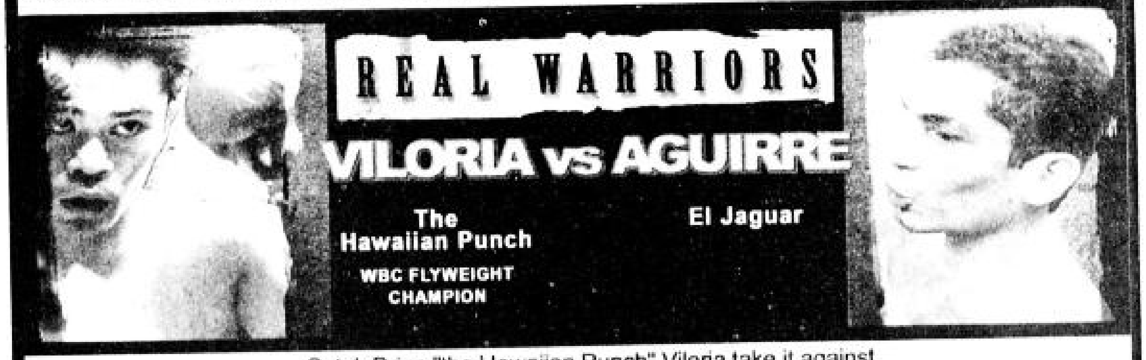

Catch Brian "the Hawaiian Punch" Viloria take it against
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2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 PINK PANTHER
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

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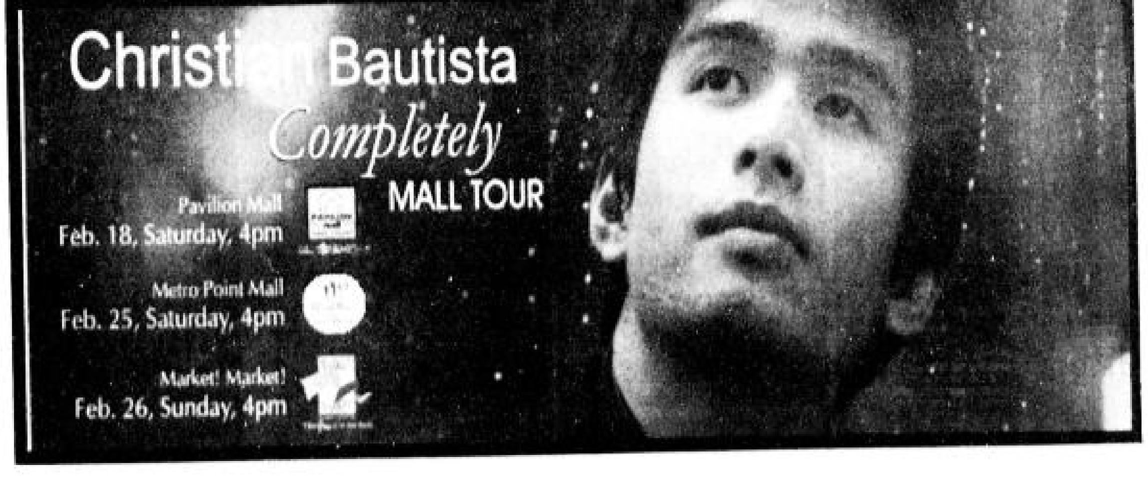

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"Pag alam kong pauwi na ang husband ko, I call him up sa SMART niya. Nagkukuwentuhan kami habang nasa traffic siya, hindi siya naiinip. Salamat at permanent na ang PLDT UNLIMITED CALL SERVICE!

- Remedios Vivo,
PLDT subscriber

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- Jaybie Lloyd Lopez
San Pedro, Laguna
Sales Staff

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- Rodrigo & Remedios Vivo
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Businesswoman

"Kesa umuwi pa ko ng probinsya, patawag-tawag na lang ako para mangumusta. Mas mahal kasi ang pamasahe. Pati mga order kong paninda, itinatawag ko na lang."

- Annalinda Sunga
San Juan
Businesswoman

"Ang laking tulong ng Unlimited Call Service ng PLDT lalo pa't madalas akong tumawag sa probinsya namin--isang isla sa Bohol. Ngayon, pinag-Smart ko na rin ang mga kamag-anak ko kaya unlimited na ang tawagan namin!"

- Crizaldo Baculao
Pasig
Driver

USAPANG BUSINESS, MAY PERSONAL TOUCH NA NGAYON!

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- Gay Castañeda
Mandaluyong City
Realtor

"Mas nagkakaintindihan kami ng client ko kaya walang nami-miss na detalye kapag nag-uusap kami about contracts and finances!"

- Joselito Cayabyab
Sta. Mesa, Manila
Businessman

SA TAOS-PUSONG USAPAN, MAS LUMALALIM NA ANG SAMAHAN NG PAMILYA, LAKING TULONG PA SA NEGOSYO! 'YAN ANG PLDT UNLIMITED CALL SERVICE!

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Angela's choice

'Housemate' leaves PBB for little daughter's sake

By Nini Valera

ANGELA Calina back in Cebu

FOR PINOY BIG BROTHER celebrity housemate Angela Calina, leaving the house of Big Brother to be with her daughter, Aira, was the easiest decision she ever made.

Angela, 29, returned to Cebu—where she is a TV host for ABS-CBN—to be with her daughter last Thursday after Big Brother informed her that thieves had entered her apartment while her daughter and a maid were asleep in the bedroom.

"I didn't think twice," Angela told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday morning.

It had taken Angela about two hours to check out of Mactan Airport the previous day because she had brought along a lot of electronic appliances, including a TV set and a laptop—Big Brother's going-away gifts.

"It's like I went shopping in Manila," said Angela. She said Aira had wanted a laptop computer for her 10th birthday on Feb. 26. The girl's wish will be granted.

"I'm so happy," Angela said. "If I were still inside the [PBB] house, it would be the first time we'd be apart on her birthday."

Aira is Angela's daughter by a former boyfriend. They separated when Aira was 10 months old. Angela has been raising her daughter alone.

An hour after Angela arrived in Cebu, she went to surprise Aira in school.

"She just hugged me—tight," Angela recounted.

It's as if she never left. Friday morning, she was taping an episode for her show, "Maayong Buntag, Kapamilya."

"It's always good to be home," Angela said.

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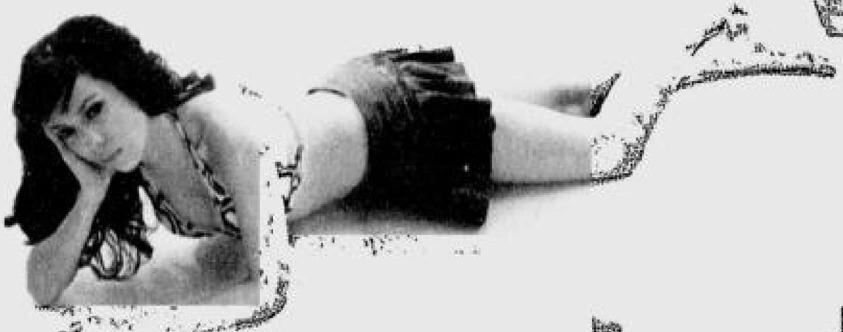

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Geisha, geisha burning bright

By Ruel S. de Vera

REVIEW

AS SNOW FALLS, THE SLEEVES OF THE elaborate costume whip about and Sayuri's (Ziyi Zhang) face is unmoving even as her body is lowing from one step to another. This is the most cathartic moment of "Memoirs of a Geisha," as the movie revels in the magic of its design and the mystery of its premise. In this dance is release and truth—everywhere else is façade and shadows.

Based on Arthur Golden's best-selling novel, "Geisha" is the first project from director Rob
Marshall since "Chicago," als
kicked its way to Oscar applau
Ken Watanabe, "Geisha" recou
of how the peasant girl Chiy
geisha Nitta Sayuri in Kyoto p
dron of hidden vengeance, ju
overflow, but only when the ti

While Robin Swicord's tr
more manageable moviemaki
charged subplots have been r
movie of a large amount of t
placing its premium on auth
with the dance scenes, with M
showpieces-within-showpiece
deliberate lushness. Every oth
ly. Even the actors seem overw

KEN Watanabe and Ziyi Zhang

Dapper and dignified

Watanabe, dapper and dig
gets a fittingly romantic role h
while Michelle Yeoh, reunitin
Dragon" co-star Zhang, is ever
Mameha. And no one arches
("Farewell My Concubine"), w
mension to Sayuri's archrival,
ic revelations are, however
Yakusho, who resembles a m
that Takeshi) as the scarred N
ka Ohgo as the young Sayuri. T
out for.

The movie uses as its center
is at her most invulnerably
poured into her kimonos, Zh
scene but the very quality tha
vents her from evoking genu
the show-stopping dance num

Because of its devotion
"Geisha," is almost entirely a
fully moody atmosphere it
ports the viewer to another
matography and the product
haps the most conspicuous joy
monos by designer Colleen A
and "Sleepy Hollow"). John
ately mournful score, aided
string work of cellist Yoyo-Ma

The performers may be s
found themselves in, and th
maybe they know, maybe the
way. Because, even if you ca
Geisha" is visually stunning,
ment in lieu of sympathy. Yo
geisha dance, but you won't b
when they do.

*(Columbia Pictures' "Memo
Manila theaters on Feb. 22.)*

Charlize
by Acade

LOS ANGELES—SOUTH AI
ize Theron said Monday sh
second Oscar nomination
honor was "insanely flatteri

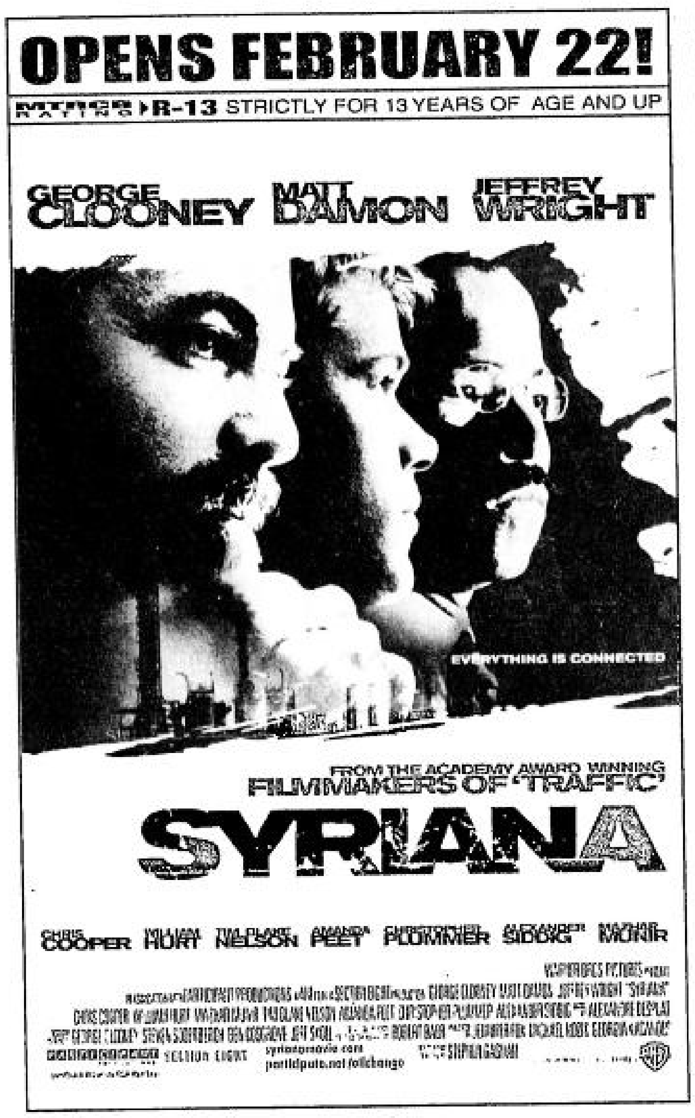
Ice-blonde beauty Theto
as Best Actress for her turn
"North Country," just two y
my Award for playing a seri

"It's crazy!" she told repor
first time around and then.
years did I ever in my dream
got locked in the candy stor
—and I'm having a really go

But the actress insisted
roles based on whether they
another Oscar, saying that h
ing actress with longevity in

"I don't look for parts th
think at the end of the day,
to work with a good direct
former model and ballerina

"I think that's our job as
going on the world. The w
now."



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CINEMA 2 FIREWALL 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 PG13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a direntertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 AEON FLUX 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 R13
CINEMA 4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 11:50, 2:50, 5:45, 8:40 R18
CINEMA 5 PINK PANTHER 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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Mowelfund Film Institute
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
2006
"AKTRES"
A TRIBUTE TO MOVIE QUEENS
Opening Films
Feb. 22, 2006
6:30p.m.
ZAMBOANGA
with excerpts from
DARNA
starring
Rosa del Rosario
Excerpts from the
Newly-Found,
Original Copy of
DYESEBEL
with Special Appearance by
Edna Luna
NEXT ATTRACTION
Feb. 24, 2006
6p.m.
Gumising Ka,
Maruja
starring
Susan Roces
9p.m.
Brutal
starring
Amy Austria
Cineplex 10, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center,
Cubao, Quezon City
for information call:
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SENTRONG PANGKULTURA NG PILIPINAS SEAPAVAA MTRCB Gateway

2ND RIB-TICKLING FUN WEEK!
MTRCB ▸ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Jim Carrey Téa Leoni
Fun with Dick and Jane
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

6 OSCAR NOMINATIONS!
THE LOVE STORY BEGINS FEB.22
MTRCB ▸ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'CHICAGO'
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
JET LI is
FEARLESS
霍元甲
A RONNY YU FILM
FATE MADE HIM A WARRIOR, COURAGE MADE HIM A HERO
OPENS MARCH 1
MTRCB ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...
16 BLOCKS
SOON IN THEATERS
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

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True to the spirit of its subject, 'Memoirs' is both distant and mesmerizing

notably an adaptation, high-
e. Headlined by Ziyi Zhang and
nts the volatile and vivid story
transforms into the fictional
rior to World War II. The caul-
alousy, love and devotion will
e is right.
ncated screenplay makes for
g, much of the book's intensely
ostly abandoned, sapping the
e book's emotion. The movie,
riticity, hits its swaying stride
rshall staging them as hypnotic
. eschewing minimalism for a
r scene is lit softly and delicate-
helmed by the movie's beauty.

ified as the Chairman, finally
it is still not given enough to do
with "Crouching Tiger, Hidden
raceful if a bit unconvincing as
n eyebrow quite like Gong Li
ho adds a bitterly poignant di-
atsumomo. The film's dramat-
veteran dramatic actor Koji
re grizzled Takeshi Kaga (yes,
bu and the mesmerizing Suzu-
his is certainly a talent to watch

iece the luminous Zhang, who
eautiful as Sayuri. Seemingly
ng enslaves the eyes in every
makes her so photogenic pre-
e emotion on screen, save for
ers.
to perfectly posed tableaus,
osphere—but what a wonder-
he production literally trans-
e between Dion Beebe's cine-
n design by John Myhre. Per-
f "Geisha" is the dream-like ki-
wood ("Edward Scissorhands"
Williams provides an appropri-
mmensely by the distinctive
nd violinist Itzhak Perlman.
allowed by the roles they've
movie is on the same stage;
don't. But you will watch any-
be detached, "Memoirs of a
work that conjures up amaze-
may not understand why the
ble to keep your eyes off them

rs of a Geisha" opens in Metro

stunned my nod

IGAN MOVIE STAR CHARL-
was stunned at winning her
as many years, saying the
g."
. 30, is nominated this year
a female miner in the drama
ars after winning an Acade-
killer in "Monster."
ers last week. "It's insane the
honestly... never in a million
... it's a little like I somehow
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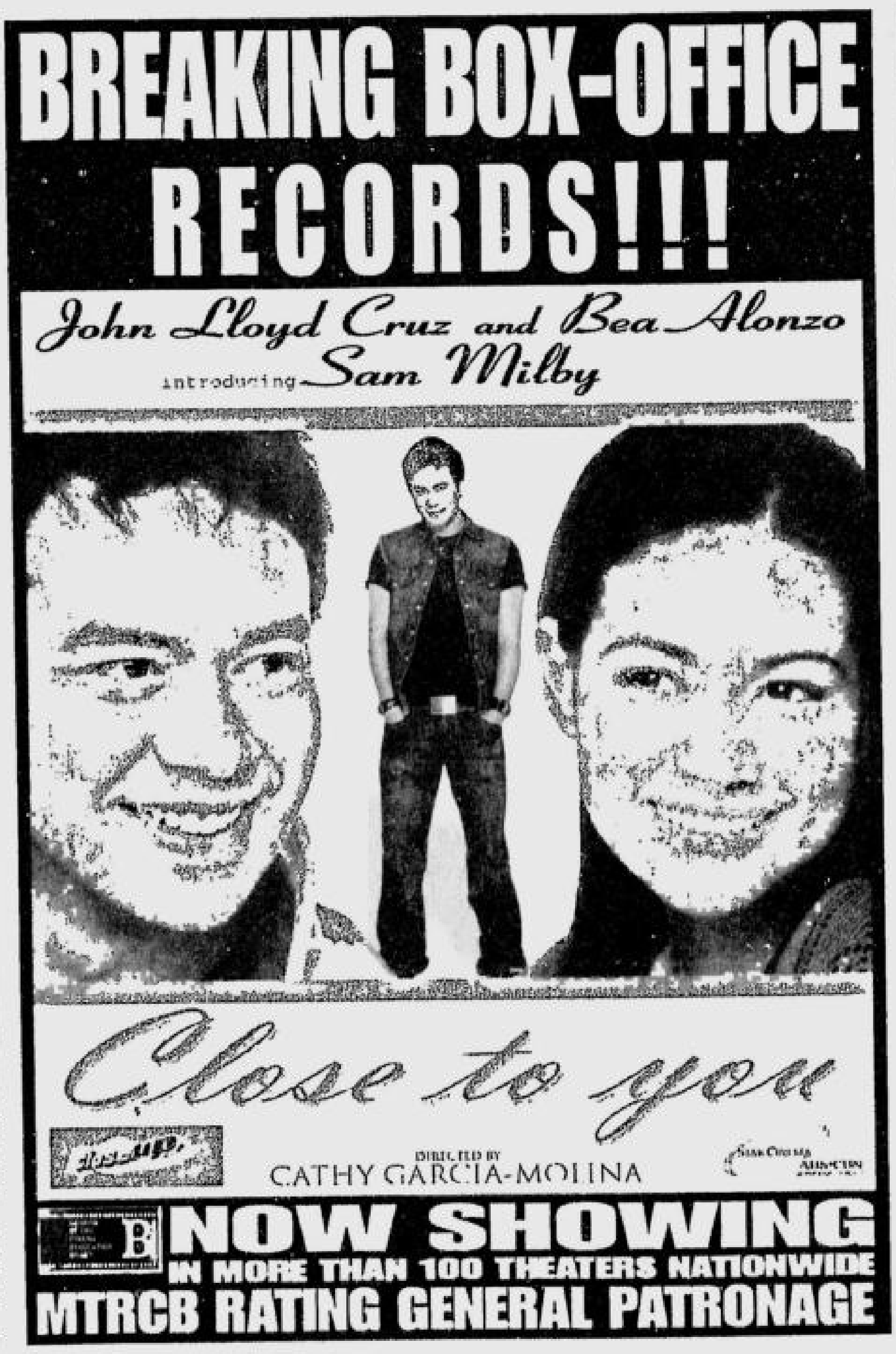

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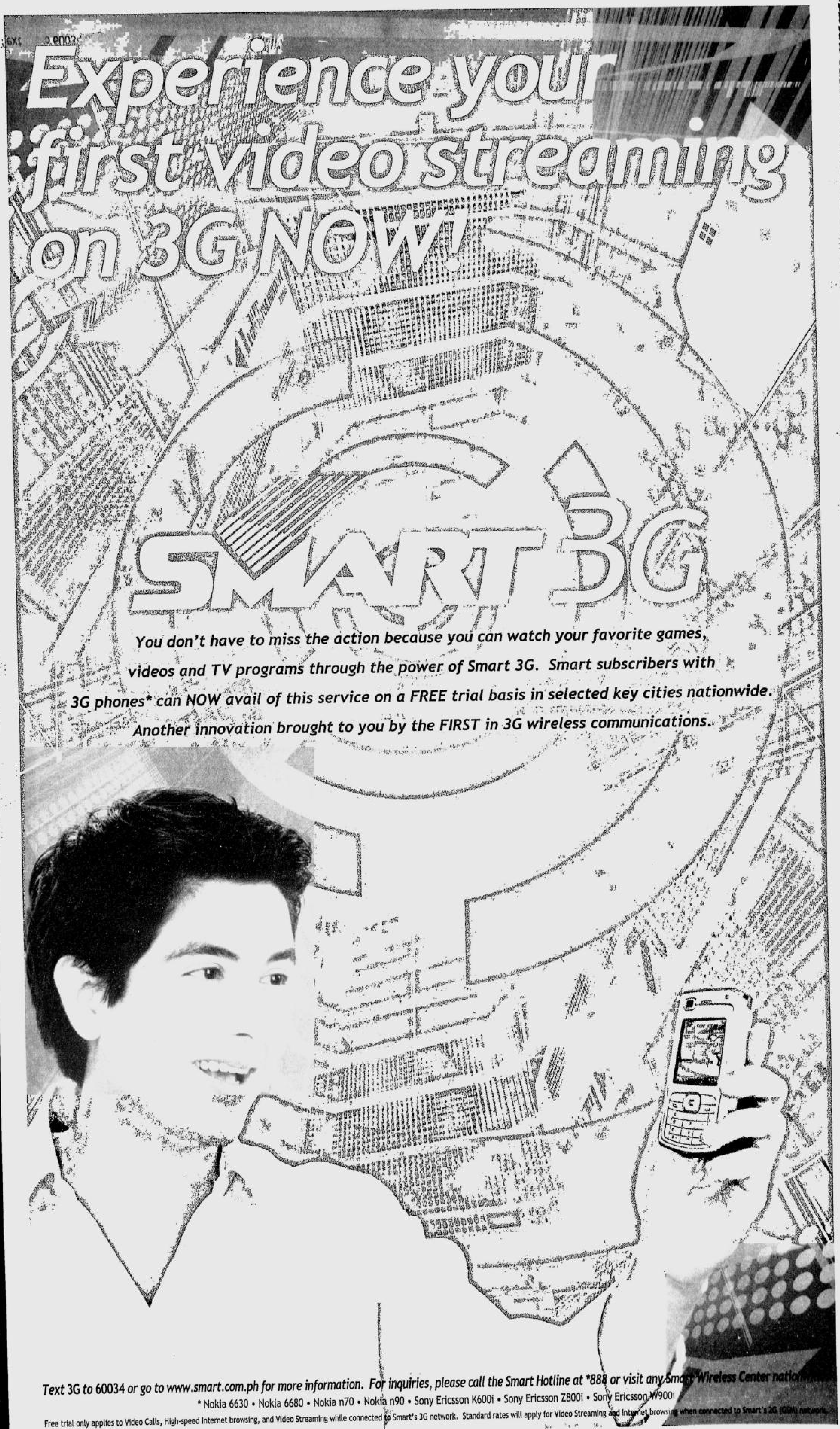

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Jon Voight on 'Brangelina' and portraying the Pope

JON Voight: "I wish Angie and Brad the best."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—FIL-AM **Vanessa Minnillo** is co-hosting the red carpet coverage TV show "Oscar Countdown" for the first time.

The former Miss Teen USA from South Carolina, whose mother is a Filipina, joins **Billy Bush** (President Bush's *pinsan*), **Chris Connelly** and **Cynthia Garrett** in covering the excitement of the star-studded procession before the big show at the Kodak Theatre on March 5.

Vanessa, whom we saw on the red carpet at the Golden Globes, is the New York-based correspondent of "Entertainment Tonight" and co-host of MTV's "Total Request Live." Her one-hour Oscar gig is with ABC Television Network, which is also airing the awards show in the US. In other words, "Oscar Countdown 2006" is the official red carpet arrivals show of the Academy.

Pinay's Oscar outfit

Will Oscar nominee **Pia Clemente** get to (proudly) answer **"Rajo Laurel** and **David Tupaz"** to a "Who are you wearing?" question by Vanessa?

Congratulations to Rajo and David for bagging the exciting privilege of designing the gown that Pia will wear on the red carpet as the first Fil-Am woman to win an Oscar nod.

Winston Emano, Pia's publicist friend, quipped that Laurel & Tupaz is the Philippines' answer to Italy's Dolce & Gabbana. "We're like brothers," Rajo told Winston. Rajo stays in David's place whenever he is in LA.

Next step for Pia—finding Pinoy-made accessories to complete her Oscar ensemble. The Bulacan native wants to showcase Filipino fashion artistry from head to toe on the red-letter day.

Jon's Jolie

Whether on the red carpet at the recent Grammys or at a hotel press conference for his new movie "Glory Road," Jon Voight couldn't avoid questions about his estrangement from famous daughter **Angelina Jolie.**

One of cinema's finest actors, Jon would probably rather talk about his latest role as coach **Adolph Rupp** in "Glory Road"—a film about the exciting 1966 NCAA basketball championship game—but interviews inevitably lead to his equally talented actress daughter, whom he calls Angie. The Oscar Best Actor winner in 1978 for "Coming Home" answers the questions, anyway, because he is eager to express his hope that he and Angie will soon end their four-year separation.

"The happiest moments in a father's life is when he's with his children," he told journalists in this interview at the Hyatt Century Plaza Hotel. "The fact that we're in the public eye makes it more difficult."

While his rift with Angie occupies the public's mind, Jon's legacy as an actor already assures him a respectable place in Hollywood history. Who can forget his hustler **Joe Buck** to **Dustin Hoffman's** crippled Ratzo Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"? Through the years, he has become a dependable presence in such landmark films as "Ali," "Deliverance" and "Runaway Train." One fascinating fact about Voight is that in 1961, he debuted on Broadway as Rolf in "The Sound of Music."

In "Glory Road," which also stars **Josh Lucas**, Jon uses his talents to recreate a real life character onscreen, Kentucky basketball coach **Adolph Rupp**, whose all-white team faced an all-black starting lineup in the historic game, considered a cultural watershed. Jon's portrayals of Pope **John Paul II** in the eponymously titled CBS miniseries, legendary TV sportscaster **Howard Cosell** in "Ali" and President **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** in "Pearl Harbor" showcase his ability to get to the essence of famous persons.

The actor's experience playing the beloved late Pope John Paul II generated as much interest in this interview as his relationship with Angelina.

What are your thoughts on becoming a grandfather?

I still haven't spoken to Angie. I am trying to reach her always, sending her my love. She has announced that she's pregnant with Brad's child. I like Brad [and] I'm wishing the best for my daughter. I would love to be part of that exciting moment.

If Brad asks your permission to marry Angelina, what will you say?

I will ... I give them my blessing. I'm a romantic. I want everybody to find the perfect mate.

Except when someone wants to marry somebody who is married.

You always feel for those who are hurt in these circumstances. I don't know the "underneath" of everything ... but [Angie and Brad] are happy and dedicated to each other. I know that Brad is very loving to the two other kids and that's a beautiful thing. As a father, I am happy that my daughter has someone like him at her side.

What was it like playing Pope John Paul II?

When the role was offered to me, I looked in the mirror and I saw that I looked quite a lot like him. I had admired him; he was a man for all faiths. He reached down and embraced everybody and that was important to me.

John Paul II was an intellectual, a linguist, a poet and an athlete, too. He's the kind of guy who would make his own breakfast. He has that certain humility about him. At the Vatican, he had a small, simple room for himself, exactly what you saw in the film—a bed, a couple of chairs and a table. That's where he lived. It was interesting to get inside the psychology of the man.

We had advisers from the Vatican. They wouldn't let us shoot within [the city state] because that would have opened the door to other things. They stuck with the rules ... but of course they were rooting for us to make something nice. Overall, it was a labor of love on the part of the whole crew—and certainly myself and **Cary Elwes** (who plays the Pope when he was younger) and [writer-director] **John Kent Harrison.** I must say I think the mini-series is absolutely brilliant.

Did you ever meet Pope John Paul II?

No, I never did.

What did the role mean to you, personally?

I loved playing the Pope. When people in Rome and Poland saw me in the robes, they became very emotional. I was acting and yet they responded as if Pope John was still alive. Many people wept. It was quite an extraordinary experience. I loved saying the words that he said.

Everybody, not just Catholics, saw Pope John Paul II as a very vigorous and charismatic man who had a great sense of humor and who never ducked anything. When he was debilitated by Parkinson's disease, we all felt sad. We knew he was in so much pain, but he never stopped working. When he passed away, we all felt the loss. We wanted to see him again in a way so I was happy to revisit him.

VANESSA Minnillo, one more Pinay at the Oscars.

JANET R. NEPALES

You screened the film at the Vatican. What was that like?

When I learned that the new Pope, Benedict XVI, was going to see it, I thought, wow, this is interesting. There was a huge preparation for the screening. There were 7,000 people. There was a little strip in the middle where there were cardinals, church dignitaries and people from the production. In the center of the aisle they had placed a chair for the Pope, big and covered with white, like a throne in the center so he's isolated from everybody. He's not like sitting there with popcorn (laughter). While he watches the movie, the press is watching him (laughter).

The film was beautifully received—and I saw myself speaking in Italian (we had Italian dubbing)! There was some weeping in different parts and, when it ended, there was a huge applause. It was a happy moment.

Several of us were asked to say hello to the Pope. He obviously couldn't say hello to everybody so about 10 people went, including me. I kissed his ring and I saw his beautiful smile. Then he started talking to me, in Italian, about the performance. I get a few words, like "beautiful interpretation."

The moment when I had to say something to him, I said, "Your Holiness, I bring you lots of love and greetings from your friends in America and across the world. I am very pleased to be in your presence and it's a big moment for me. I'll remember it all my life." [I noticed] he was trying to compute what happened because he just saw me on the screen speaking perfect Italian (laughter).

> 'When people in Rome and Poland saw me in the robes, they became very emotional. It was quite an experience'

From the Pope to basketball coach in "Glory Road"—did you play basketball when you were in school?

I was a basketball player in college. When I was in high school, I couldn't make the team. Then I went to a little college, Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. I made the team in my sophomore year. I was so excited (laughing). It was a big deal for me. It was like everything else was secondary. I thought I really achieved something. In my junior year, I realized I really was not going to be a great player so I kind of retired in a way.

I was also an actor in those days, really trying to learn my craft, going to school and then trying to get work as well. I knew a lot about what was going on at the time. I was involved in the Civil Rights Movement in a peripheral way. I would march and do what I could but I knew everything that was happening. This was a very remarkable time. One of the nice things about "Glory Road" is that you look back and say well, we've come quite a way, haven't we?

Was there anyone who was an inspiration to you like Josh Lucas' coach Don Haskins was to his players?

My parents come to mind. My mother and father gave me encouragement when I was down and gave me proper guidance without interfering with my energy. I remember my mother when I did a play once. I was just starting out in Vermont. I was really not very good in this play. My parents came to see the show. As we walked out together afterwards, there was silence. I said, "Well, mom?" She said, "You were wonderful no matter what anyone says (laughter)." That's a great mom, I tell you, and a great coach!

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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Sad stranger in an even stranger land

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TERRENCE MALICK MAKES movies only once in a blue moon, so when he does direct a new motion picture, it's a "should-see" event. Thus, we went out of our way to catch his latest film, "The New World."

The period production dramatizes the founding of America of the British colony of Virginia in the 17th century. Its particular focus is on how the Indian princess Pocahontas falls in love with Capt. John **Smith** and saves the colonists from starvation and death.

Tragically, Pocahontas is spurned by her own people after the colonists wage war on them, and she lives the rest of her days in Europe, a sad stranger in an even stranger land she can never call her own.

This essential conflict between the purity of the Indian's America and the thoughtlessness and even viciousness of the colonizers who seek to tame and exploit it is the film's unifying theme.

To be sure, Malick shows that some colonizers have worthy motives, but they are quickly overwhelmed by the majority's cupidity and cruelty.

Clearly taking the side of the Indians, Malick pointedly posits their pristine landscape and lifestyle with the colonizers' ugly and dirty fortress. The difference is more than just physical, and the film goes on to show the dissonance in its protagonists and antagonists' hearts as well.

Ironically, colonizers first start calling the Indians "naturals," but soon angrily refer to them as "savages." They forget that the Indians were forced to turn to "savagery" only when the British invaders turned against them. Who's the "savage," then?

Malick's treatment of the movie's story invites other thoughtful ruminations, as he strives to extract greater significance from the John Smith-Pocahontas romance than previous treatments have managed.

Still, we can understand why some viewers might find the movie slow and even occasionally pretentious. For our part, though, the beautiful images and vistas saw us through, especially when it came to the largely doleful and mordant scenes set in London.

Although **Colin Farrell** makes a sensitive John Smith, it's new actress Q'orianka Kilcher who dominates the production with her luminous portrayal of the Indian princess who gives up her beautiful world for the fetid land of her truest love.

Kilcher is part Peruvian Indian and part Swiss, so she has an innate understanding of both the clash and fusion of different cultures, and this informs her performance with authenticity and conviction.

'Virtousos'

MUSIC lovers shouldn't miss "Virtousos," a unique piano gala concert at the CCP on March 3. The special presentation features acclaimed Filipino pianists playing on 12 grand pianos in an exciting program of popular classical and Filipino masterplaces.

Solo and ensemble performances form part of the program, with the special participation of Ballet Philippines, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Featured master pianists are **Nena del Rosario-Villanueva, Raul Sunico, Ryan Cayabyab, Della Besa, Annie de Guzman, Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, Mary Anne Espina, Greg Zuniega, Ina Monteclaros, Najib Ismail, Peter Porticos** and **Rudolf Golez**. Call 832-1125.

'Edsa 20: Isang Larawan'

THE INQUIRER's InqTV presents "Edsa 20: Isang Larawan," a documentary on the 20th anniversary of Edsa, on ABC-5.

The documentary tells the story of the first flourish of People Power—as a series of events that can't be explained in purely human terms.

Ex-senator **Gringo Honasan** candidly talks about the plan to seize Malacañang. Retired brigadier general **Charles Hotchkiss** reveals the role he and his squadron of 14 helicopter gunships played in the Edsa drama.

INQUIRER TV tracked down the two nuns in front of the crowd that stopped the tanks on Feb. 23, 1986. Sister Ping Ocañas and Sister Terry Burias tell a story of serendipity, in contrast to the military reformists' detailed planning.

Other key participants who share their recollections: **Butz Aquino, June Keithley, Gabe Mercado, Jim Paredes, Ted Gonzales, S.J., JP Fenix** and **Ed Lingao**.

"Edsa 20" airs at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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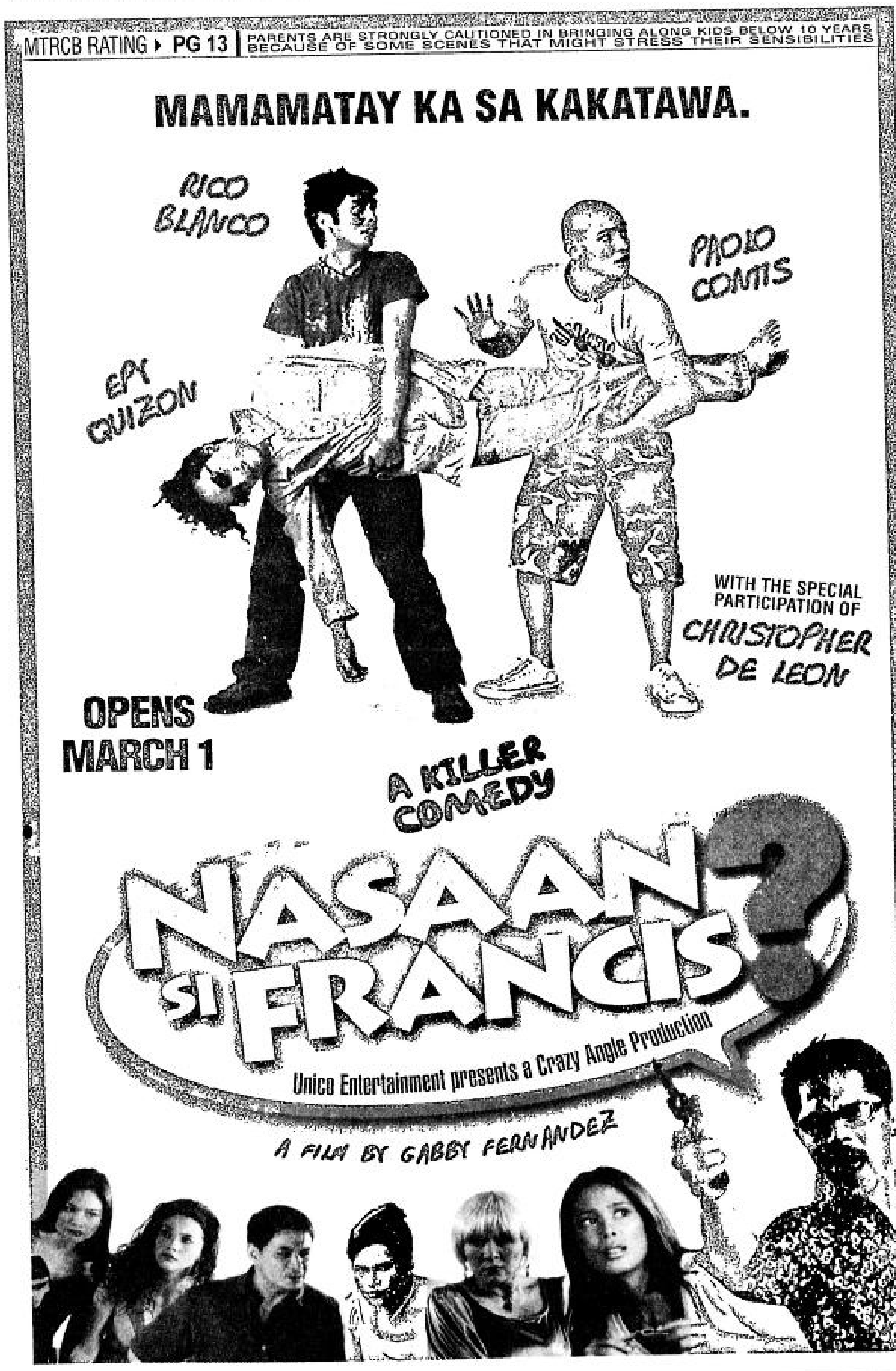
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Uma knighted

PARIS—France honored
man on Tuesday, proclaimin
ing beauty" a knight in the (

"We welcome Uma Thurm
throughout the world and esp
said Cannes Film Festival Dir
the honor at a ceremony on be

Thurman's career "would m
entire generation," he said.

Jacob evoked the actress's
hood as the daughter of a renc
Uma after an Indian goddess.
disconcerting beauty," a "fem
ture," before pinning a meda
Dior jacket.

"I'm so flattered," said Thur

Cinemalaya 10 un

A female boxer, an ice crean
reporter, a cancer-stricken w
Dawn.

These are some of the color
screenplays chosen to compe
gory of the 2006 Cinemalaya
tival and Competition.

Cinemalaya organizers unv
"Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo"
Sa Paang Palay" by Vic Acedil
"by Adolfo Alix Jr.; "Larombata
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his swearing-in ceremony. "M
the New York Police Departm
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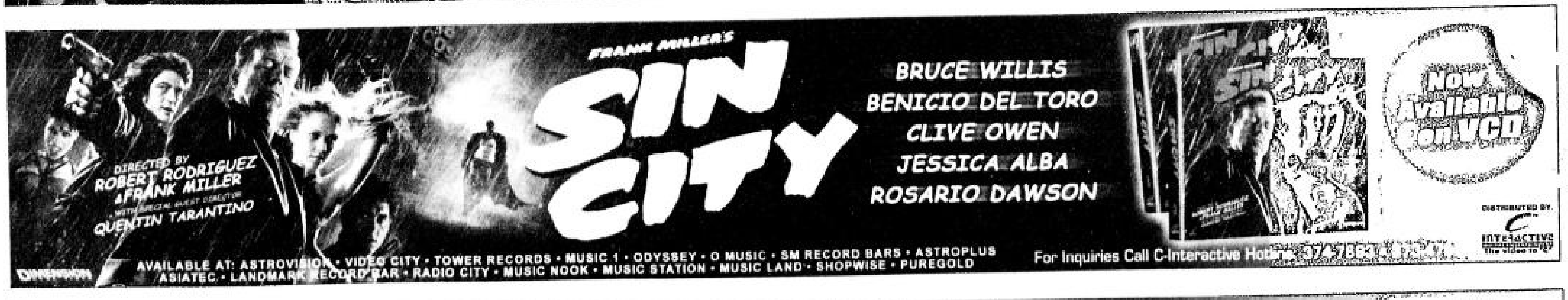
Artist Lamberto Avellana and
tos Sr.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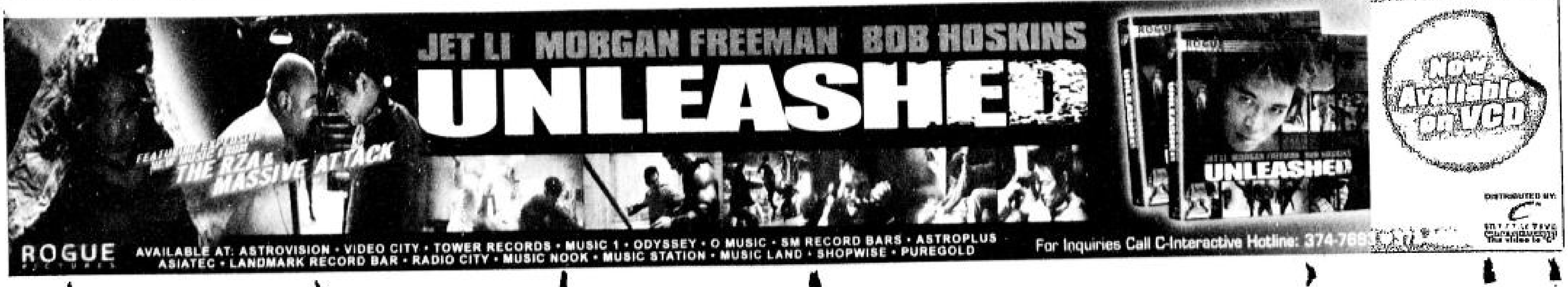
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NDUP

THURMAN: "Classic, disconcerting beauty" AFP

American actress Uma Thur-
g the "classic and disconcert-
rder of Arts and Letters.
ian, a model actress, admired
ecially in our country, France,"
ector Gilles Jacob. He awarded
half of France's Culture Ministry.
ike her the favorite actress of an

atypical and bohemian" child-
wned Tibet scholar, who named
He hailed her as a "classic and
e fatale" and a "dreamy crea-
on Thurman's black Christian

ian. *AP*

veiled

vendor, a disenchanted tabloid
low and Jett Pangan and The

ul characters that inhabit the 10
in the full-length feature cate-
hilippine Independent Film Fes-

iled the final 10 on Thursday:
by Nick Joseph Olanka; "Batad,
Jr. and Benji Garcia; "Donsol"
by Khavn de la Cruz; "Lima" by
nino sa Apuhap" by Domingo
grid Andrea Bernardo; "Ngipin
o and Bong Ramos; "Rotonda"
go Si Happiness" by Florida M.
ad ng Dati" by Michael Sande-

petition is a project of the Cine-
nter of the Philippines, UP Film
Media Systems Inc.
Bayani San Diego Jr.

criminals, beware: you don't
u "The Incredible Hulk" Ferrig-

star of the 1970s TV show no
n monster when he sees people
ng sworn in Monday night as a
Department reserve deputy, he

told The Associated Press after
father was a police officer with
t, I've always had a high respect
to give back to the community,
kids, help them get off drugs."
st 20 hours a month. AP

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premiering the LVN vintage film
film was directed by National
arred Rosa Rosal and Tony San-

LAS ALAS

-Ai's magic

omedienne Ai-Ai de las Alas re-
ly signed up with Maggi Magic
up as endorser. A busy working
n of three precocious kids, Ai-Ai
urrently studying Culinary Arts.
he describes herself as an "ex-
mental cook."

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1 MUNICH • THX
12:50 4:00 7:15 10:00

2 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 GOAL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 AEON FLUX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 PINK PANTHER
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 FIREWALL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 NEW WORLD
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

10 FUN with DICK and JANE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CLOSE TO YOU 10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

2 FUN with DICK and JANE 12:00 2:20
NEW WORLD 4:45 7:15 9:50

3 GOAL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 AEON FLUX
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5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
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6 PINK PANTHER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

3 NEW WORLD
12:40 3:20 6:10 9:00

4 GOAL
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:55 3:10 6:05 9:00

6 FIREWALL
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

7 PINK PANTHER
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 AEON FLUX
2 GOAL
3 FIREWALL
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 FUN with DICK and JANE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 GOAL

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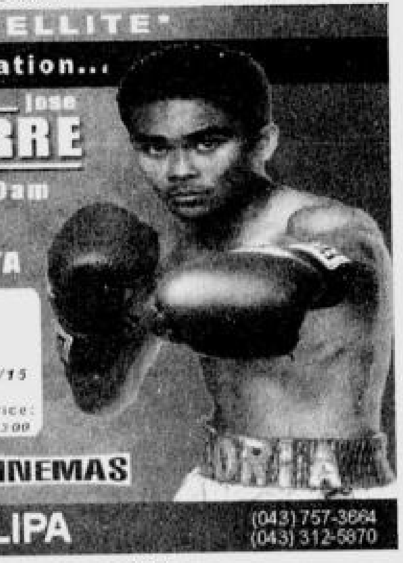
The next Filipino boxing sensation...



brian "the hawaiian punch" jose

VILORIA vs AGUIRRE

February 19, 2006 (Sunday) • 8:00am

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2 SAW 2
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU

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1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 WALK THE LINE
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 SAW 2

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-4129 (046) 416-4337

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 MUNICH
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 PINK PANTHER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8160

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 GOAL

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 PINK PANTHER
6 MUNICH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
6 SAW 2

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The Comedy of REX NAVARRETE
SM NORTH EDSA CINEMA 1
February 24, 2006, 8:00 PM
Southmall Cinema 3 February 25

ERRATUM: We would like to apologize for the inconvenience. To better serve you we are moving the Feb 17 North Edsa show to Feb 24 and Feb. 18 Southmall show to Feb. 25. This is to accommodate more people who would like to watch Rex Navarrete. Those who bought the ticket to the Feb 17 and 18 shows will be given FREE popcorn upon presentation of his/her ticket on Feb 24 and 25. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Free LOWER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1(one) Rex CD + med. Popcorn & Drink! P 500.00
Free UPPER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1 (one) med. Popcorn & Drink for P 300.00
Available at the following SM Cinema Snackbars:
North Edsa, andSouthmall

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PINK PANTHER
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08:35 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:30 END

AEON FLUX
12:15FS / 12.40 MF / 02.45 / 04:50 / 06:55
08:30 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:36 END

MEGAMALL

NEW WORLD
03.50 FS / 04.00 MF
09:10 LFS 09:40 LMF 12:00 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876

FIREWALL
10:00 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
[illegible]

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
[illegible]

MUNICH
[illegible]

MANILA

FIREWALL
11:00 FS / 01:00 MF 03:30 / 06:00 / 07:00
[illegible]

moviectime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 NEW WORLD
2 GOAL
3 MUNICH
4 RESERVED
5 AEON FLUX
6 FIREWALL
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 GOAL
2 AEON FLUX
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 FIREWALL
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 NEW WORLD
10 SAW 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 AEON FLUX
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 GOAL
2 SAW 2
3 FIREWALL
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 AEON FLUX
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 AEON FLUX
8 NEW WORLD
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 GOAL
8 NEW WORLD
9 SAW 2
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 GOAL
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 PINK PANTHER
8 FIREWALL

SM CITY MANILA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 NEW WORLD
3 FIREWALL
4 AEON FLUX
5 PINK PANTHER
6 GOAL
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 SAW 2
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 GOAL
2 AEON FLUX
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 MUNICH
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NEW WORLD
2 SAW 2
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
GOAL
CLOSE TO YOU
PINK PANTHER
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
FIREWALL
CLOSE TO YOU
NEW WORLD
MUNICH

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY MARILAO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY LUCENA
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 DERAILED
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE MAID

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FIREWALL
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 MUNICH
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SAW 2
2 RESERVED
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 RESERVED
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 SAW 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RUMOR HAS IT

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4.) The Chairman of the Council of Scientists
5.) The creator of "Aeon Flux" animated series
6.) The Captain of the Guard
7.) The leader of the rebellion
8.) The one responsible for the supervi[illegible] th
Bregnan military

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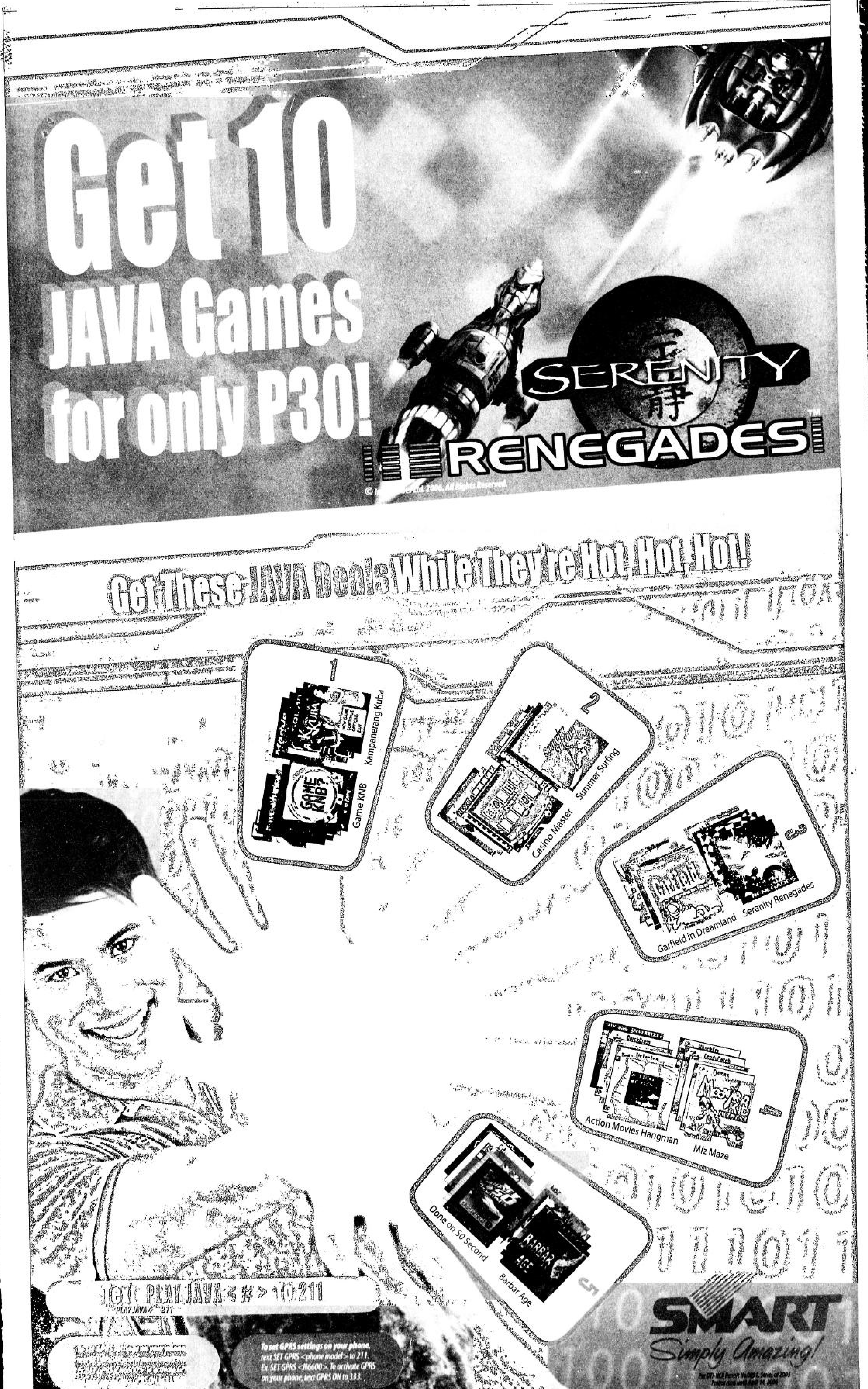

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YA

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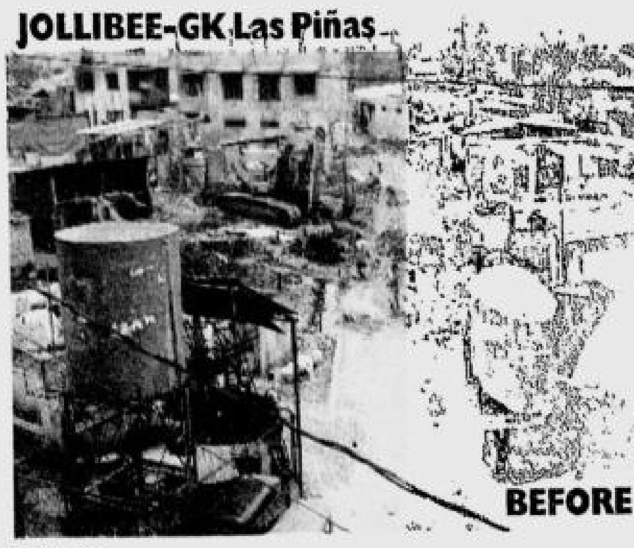
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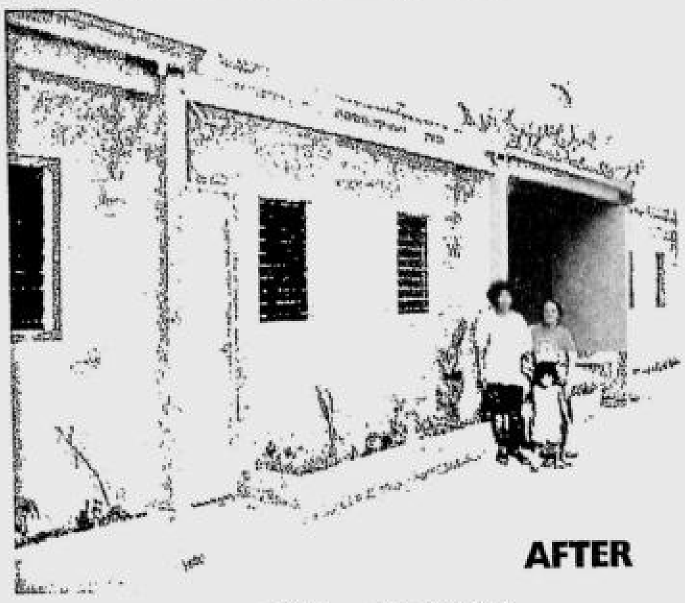
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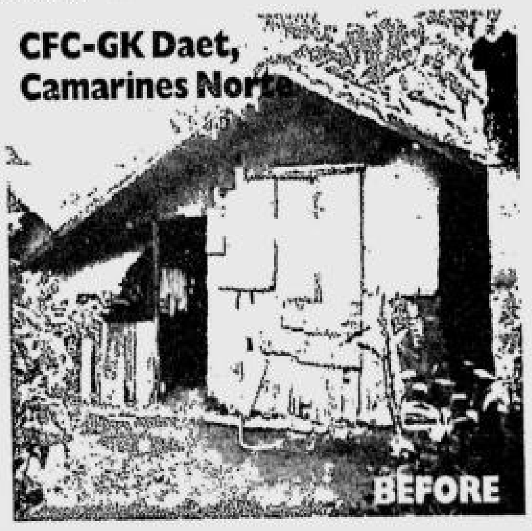
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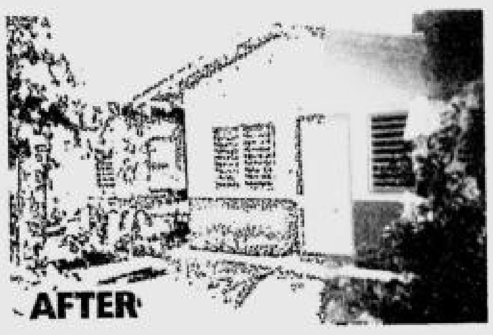

AFTER

Dignity restores a man born poor

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

STUDENTS FROM THE MASsachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the best engineering schools in the world, scratch their heads at the development model of Gawad Kalinga—a local movement that aims to eradicate poverty by building villages and communities for squatters all over the country.

"They told me, 'You're doing everything wrong according to our models. At the same time we have nothing to show for ours'," relates Tony Meloto, the 56-year-old founder of Gawad Kalinga which means "to give care."

"Our formula is simple—to do it you need to understand and restore human dignity. You do not beg. You surround them [the poor] with the proper surroundings."

Started three years ago, GK has already built over 15,000 homes in more than 600 villages. Based on an average five-member family, this translates to better environment for 750,000 Filipinos. And the houses were built, not just by GK members, but employees, students, balikbayans, foreigners...

IN HIS EARLIER years with children, Wowie and Anna.

Tag price of these villages is almost P1 billion based on a P50,000 to P60,000 cost per house. Some of the communities have preschools and activity centers.

Tony says they did not have to beg for the money to build. The sponsors just come.

"They call us," he says of the corporate and individual and group sponsors who give their time, money and effort to build a village.

This, he says, is the difference between the MIT model of development and that of GK. "Their model is economic—they address the income, they build big houses. They do not consider the social environment, the cultural and historical aspects of a place."

Squatting, Meloto says, stems from the feudal system that continues to prevail in the Philippines where only 10 percent of the population own land. The rest live on land they do not and will never own. And when life in the provinces become too difficult, they go to the cities hoping to meet lady luck.

Meloto says the typical story of a squatter colony begins when a girl goes to the city to work as maid. She meets and marries a security guard. They shack up where they can. The girl's family follows from the province and soon a squatter colony has sprouted.

GK's target is to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities by 2010 under its GK 777 program.

The movement, if continued and maintained, can help eradicate the squatter problem in the country, which as of 2002, total 588,853 squatter families in the country, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

"If you want to bring the country out of poverty, give the poorest of the poor a middle class environment so they have middle class aspirations," states Meloto. "The problem of poverty is not economic, it is behavioral."

He says most of the poverty-related programs are geared toward women and children. But he adds the most affected by poverty are the men.

"When GK looked at the problem, most of the interventions were on women and children.

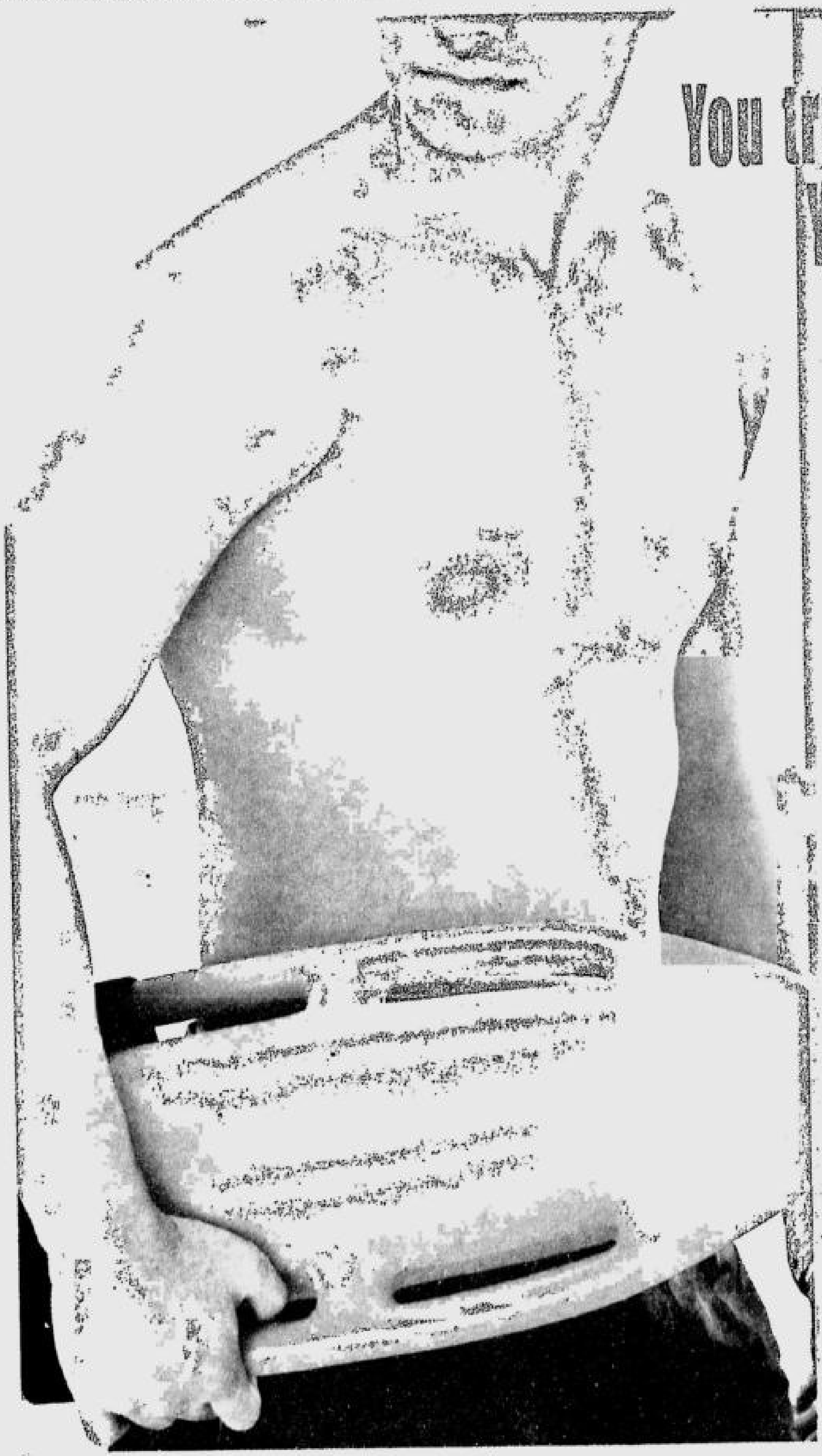
TONY with adopted daughter, Celine, whom he says he loves as much as his biological children.

Nobody paid attention to the men. Poor women become heroic because they look for work to support the family. The men become criminals. When men are deprived of their nobility and dignity, they became predators and resort to crime," puts Tony.

GK taps the men. In building the communities for the villages, it is the men who do the bulk of the work. This involvement gives the men a sense of importance and improves their self-esteem and restores their dignity.

Tony acknowledges that the key to the success of GK is its base—the Couples for Christ

DIGNITY/B2



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Never giving up is man's key to success

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIGOS CITY—FOR ENTREPRENEUR Dione Panganiban, there is no other way to succeed in life than to persevere. And he speaks from experience.

The 60-year-old Panganiban, more known as Mang Dione among family and friends, owns the Joy Joy Food Products here, which produces food preserves including nata de coco, kaong and macapuno.

His journey from lowly farmer in the sleepy town of Rosario, Batangas, to becoming an entrepreneur was not easy.

But he says no matter how many times he stumbled and fell, he insisted on doing the things he knew would improve his life and that of his family's and the people around them.

"I believe trials are always present," he says, adding that without it, one would not be able to write a success story.

In 1973, the then newlywed Mang Dione left his hometown and moved with his wife Hemema to her rustic farming community in Barangay Goma here.

For five years, Mang Dione cultivated vegetables and high-value crops in an area in his father-in-law's farm lot to sustain his growing family.

But when communist insurgents came to Goma in the 1980s, Mang Dione moved to the poblacion.

Without a livelihood to make ends meet, Mang Dione found it was not easy to raise a family in the poblacion.

Thus he thought about venturing into trading.

He had set his mind into semi-processing kaong seeds, which is abundant in Goma.

In his hometown in Batangas, kaong seeds were processed, but in Davao del Sur, no one had thought about it even though kaong trees were everywhere.

So without thinking twice, Mang Dione went back to Goma and executed his plan.

He went to see his old neighbors, mostly native Bagobo (indigenous people) farmers and opened the idea to them.

Mang Dione says he literally went from house to house to convince people and teach them how to pre-process kaong seeds.

He then sold the pre-processed product at the Digos public market.

As business was becoming promising, Mang Dione sold his carabao for P1,500 so he could raise more capital. He thought he would earn more if he brought the product to Manila.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DIONE Panganiban, a farmer turned manufacturer of Joy Joy Food Products, maker of fruit preserves in Digos City, Davao Del Sur.

But the decision proved to be a bad one.

Mang Dione says he failed to consider the demand for the produce and as a result, his capital vanished because his kaong did not sell well in Manila.

Refusing to be deterred by the failure, Mang Dione thought of another strategy. Then the idea of prolonging the shelf life of the pre-processed kaong by placing them in small glass containers came to Mang Dione.

He asked his wife Hemema to undergo a six-month training in food-processing at the University of the Philippines so she would learn about food preserving techniques.

The couple experimented until they managed to come up with their own blend.

Mang Dione says they began to sell their homemade preserve to friends, neighbors and acquaintances first before approaching small groceries.

With the growing market, he was forced to borrow money and used it for capital.

In 1979, Joy Joy Food Products was officially registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other agencies.

Through DTI's help, Mang Dione's growing company was able to join international trade fairs in Brunei, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and other Asian countries.

His client base grew too.

Joy Joy also started producing for other food preserve companies.

In 1999, the government recognized Mang Dione's efforts and handed him a Gawad Saka award.

Just as he was starting to count the fruits of his success, tragedy struck Mang Dione's flourishing business.

A fire destroyed the four buildings of their plant, razing it to the ground.

"When I arrived at the place, I just cried and cried," he says upon seeing his efforts reduced to ashes.

"But all the while I kept on saying to myself, 'I can survive this and will rise again'."

His wife and five children told him to stop and focus on other things.

But Mang Dione says he did not want to give up.

He made it once, he could do it again, he told himself.

Mang Dione went around and scouted for money so he could raise capital.

But the stair to recovery proved to be difficult.

Because business did not go well this time, Mang Dione failed to pay his financiers. They sued him.

Mang Dione was overwhelmed by the turn of events and suffered a mild stroke.

His trusted personnel Domingo Corales recalled how competitors easily picked up the news and used it against Joy Joy Foods.

"They would spread the news to our clients that we are already gone, because of the fire," he says of their rivals, who eventually snatched the bulk of the purchase orders.

Corales says he told their remaining clients not to worry because "we are still here."

He says what was fueling the workers' desire to continue was the boss' refusal to give up.

After his discharge from the hospital, Mang Dione gathered his staff and agents and told them it was business as usual.

Mang Dione then hired a carpenter to work on a makeshift building where they could start producing again.

He says he and his workers pushed themselves beyond human limits just to deliver the job orders and so they could raise money to pay off debts.

"Again we started from zero," Mang Dione says.

Now, Mang Dione and his workers are happy although business is still not quite the way it was.

But the most important thing is that they learned that one can overcome life's difficulties by sheer perseverance and courage.

Dignity restores ...

From page B1

Movement, of which he is a member. Each GK village has 10-20 "caretakers," usually members of CFC, who visit the villages two to three times a week to check on the residents and look over their formation.

Tony explains the residents do not just get their houses without giving anything in return.

"They have to have sweat equity, they have to attend 27 sessions of values formation program; and they have to sign an occupancy agreement of 25 years," he explains.

But although he says CFC, of which he is a member, is the base of GK, they have tapped other groups to care for these communities. These include Ligaya ng Panginoon, Bukas Loob sa Diyos, Light of Jesus, schools. In Mindanao, GK through the Highway of Peace, has raised villages where both Muslims and Christians work, build and live together in peace.

AT THE ATENEO Osama awards with wife, Lyn, and children, Anna, Wowie, Jay and Camille

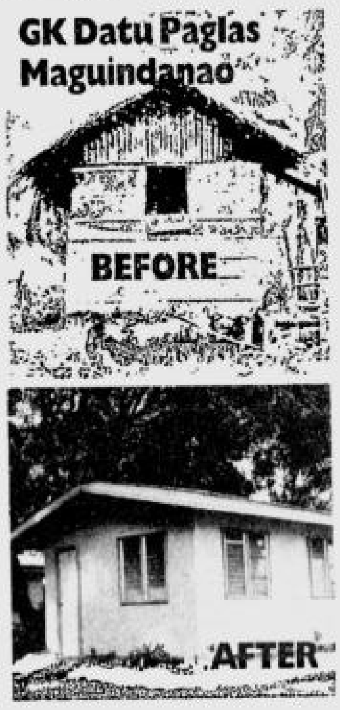
When Tony speaks about the poor, it comes from one who has been there.

Beginnings

He grew up in a poor area in Bacolod where he felt he was a second class citizen compared with the rich. He grew up at a time when the rich in Bacolod were raking it in because of the boom in the sugar industry and the landed folks were cash-rich, buying the latest car models, building huge mansions, traveling.

The huge disparity between the rich and the poor affected his brothers such that they stopped studying.

To make matters worse for him, at age 12, he fell off a tree and lost his sight on the left eye. But although he could not see, he says for four years he trained his left eye to move with the right so the lack of sight will not be noticeable. Tony realized he had to be liberated from the prison that poverty seemed to have encased them. So he studied hard, got a senior year scholarship to the US which he took. Upon his return, he studied at the Ateneo where he also got a scholarship.



In college, he knew the girls from exclusive schools would not pay attention to him if they knew he came from a public school in the province so he reinvented himself—he adopted an American twang and became active in school.

He landed a job in Procter & Gamble after college, later set up his own business and was fast becoming successful financially. He joined CFC and soon realized he could so easily take the wrong path because of his work and material desires. He joined CFC full time and in 1995 immersed himself in Bagong Silang, the biggest squatter relocation site. He studied and got to know the poor. He realized it was the social environment more than the economics that was the problem of the poor.

But his learning, proven by his own experience, was that Filipinos are capable of setting themselves free without having to be angry or blaming someone.

To Tony, GK works because "poverty is loss of hope and motivation, but the potential of human beings to build productive lives is there especially the males who often waste whatever income they have to vices."

He says the Philippines is a gated country—when squatters sprout in an area, the rich simply build higher gates or ask the local politicians to build walls around the poor. He adds that Filipinos have the barong-barong mentality—simply build where you can. If natural calamity or humans turn down your house, build another again in another place.

This is what GK is addressing. It started with one house in Bagong Silang. By 2000 GK was launched as a nationwide movement and eventually a global one. Today GK volunteers come from all over the world and many local schools and corporations.

Tony's wife Lyn, his four children—Anna, Wowie, Jay and Camille are all involved in GK.

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Why GK does not run out of money

GAWAD KALINGA, THE MOVEMENT aimed at eradicating poverty in the Philippines, has so far raised almost P1 billion for its villages.

This without begging for funding, says its founder Tony Meloto. Tony says their movement gets support from 100 corporations.

"It's not a donor-donee relationship," says Meloto.

The volunteers get ownership of the village.

Among its first corporate supporters were Smart Communications, McDonald's, Procter & Gamble, Prudentialife, Pfizer, Wyeth and UPL. Today support comes from all over the world.

How do these groups help?

The beauty of the GK program, according to Meloto, is that companies see where their money and help are going. The projects are tangible in the form of communities that are often named after the sponsoring company.

Help can come in many ways—donation of land, money to build houses, "sweat equity" to actually help build houses, building materials, time and effort to teach programs that will help the members of the communities.

And the changes are immediate. Meloto says they have built for about 1,000 families in Baseco in Manila which used to have 28 unsolved murders. Since GK came there has been no murder.

He quotes one woman resident who told him in Filipino, "You made us decent."

The communities have rules—no drinking on the streets and no laundry hanging in the front of the houses. Preschools are a must in each village and there are health, livelihood and youth programs.

PROCTER & Gamble, one of the first firms to support GK, recently gave boxes of Safeguard soap in GK villages in Baseco as part of its 40th year celebration campaign entitled Kalinisan, Kalusugan, Kaunlaran. Photo shows Ivan Chuavon, Safeguard global franchise brand manager with Tony Meloto while seated is Dr. Timothy Long, P&G global technical external relations manager.

The houses measure about 20 to 25 square meters with a toilet and kitchen.

The movement has gained global recognition with the model being adopted abroad—first at Papua New Guinea. GK is helping build templates for other countries.

Ivy league schools are studying GK as a model of development.

GK landed the front pages a few years ago with the story of Dylan Wilk, one of the richest men in Britain, who sold his BMW and built a whole village in Bulacan. He is married to Tony's daughter, Anna, and now works full time in the movement as its international partnerships coordinator. He goes around the world talking about GK.

LIGHT IS HOPE, the lighting project of the Philips Groups of Companies in the Philippines for GK communities, is unveiled in the GK Village in Baseco, Tondo, Manila. "We now see a real transformation of Baseco residents with people working together and bringing out the best in one another," says GK founder Tony Meloto (third from right). Philips president and CEO (fourth from left) Med Mateo says "sustainable development is sharing the benefits of economic growth with the marginalized sectors of society for a better quality of life.

Med Mateo, head of Philips in the Philippines, talks about their involvement in GK which started with a commitment to build 50 houses. When Dutch Royal Philips Electronics president and chief executive officer Gerard Kleisterlee came to Manila for a brief visit, Mateo brought him to Philips GK village to get his hands dirty and help build houses for the community they were sponsoring.

To his surprise, Kleisterlee pulled him aside and told him he enjoyed the experience immensely and announced that day that Philips was building 50 more houses.

Smart Communications Co. Inc. vice president Ramon Isberto says Smart "partnered with GK because it's an effective program that has had a real impact. Not only in terms of actually building homes but also in terms of setting an example of bayanihan in action that lifts our spirit and encourages greater involvement.

GK builds hope as well as homes. Smart has set up Smart Amazing Villages in Baseco, Tondo and Gen. Nakar, Quezon. Another one in Camp Abubakar is nearing completion. PLDT and Smart are working together to build GK villages in Cebu and Iloilo. We are partnering wit the Philippine Army to build a GK village for soldiers in Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija. Each village has 100 homes This is a major commitment on our part."

A village with 100 homes costs P6 million to build. *M.Q. Espino*

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February 25 & 26, 2006
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licensed, at least 2 years experience; single, male or female; proficient in Microsoft Word & Excel; 24 to 30 years of age.
NOTE: Due to urgency, submit resumé on or before February 22, 2006 at Unit 6, 101, 11th St., New Manila, Q.C. Tel. # 721-81-66 look for Derlyn.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost S2 ID Card 18730N00 under the name of Dr. Dominador Pedrocio was lost (PDI-2/19/06)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1334 for 173 shares;#1563 for 2,964 shares;#2080 for 627 shares;#2615 for 1,882 shares;#3287 for 1,120 shares;#3752 for 677 shares;#4225 for 4,545 shares & #5949 for 10,096 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF CHRISTINE DEE were reported lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1335 for 345 shares;#1564 for 2,964 shares;#3288 for 1,191 shares;#3753 for 714 shares & #4226 for 4,794 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF FREDERICK DEE were reporter lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1329 for 518 shares;#2073 for 103 shares;#2608 for 310 shares;#3282 for 186 shares;#3747 for 111 shares;#4220 for 749 shares & #4750 for 157 shares issued in the name of GILBERT DEE were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificated will be issued. (PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert. No.5948 for Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Nine(14,309) shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

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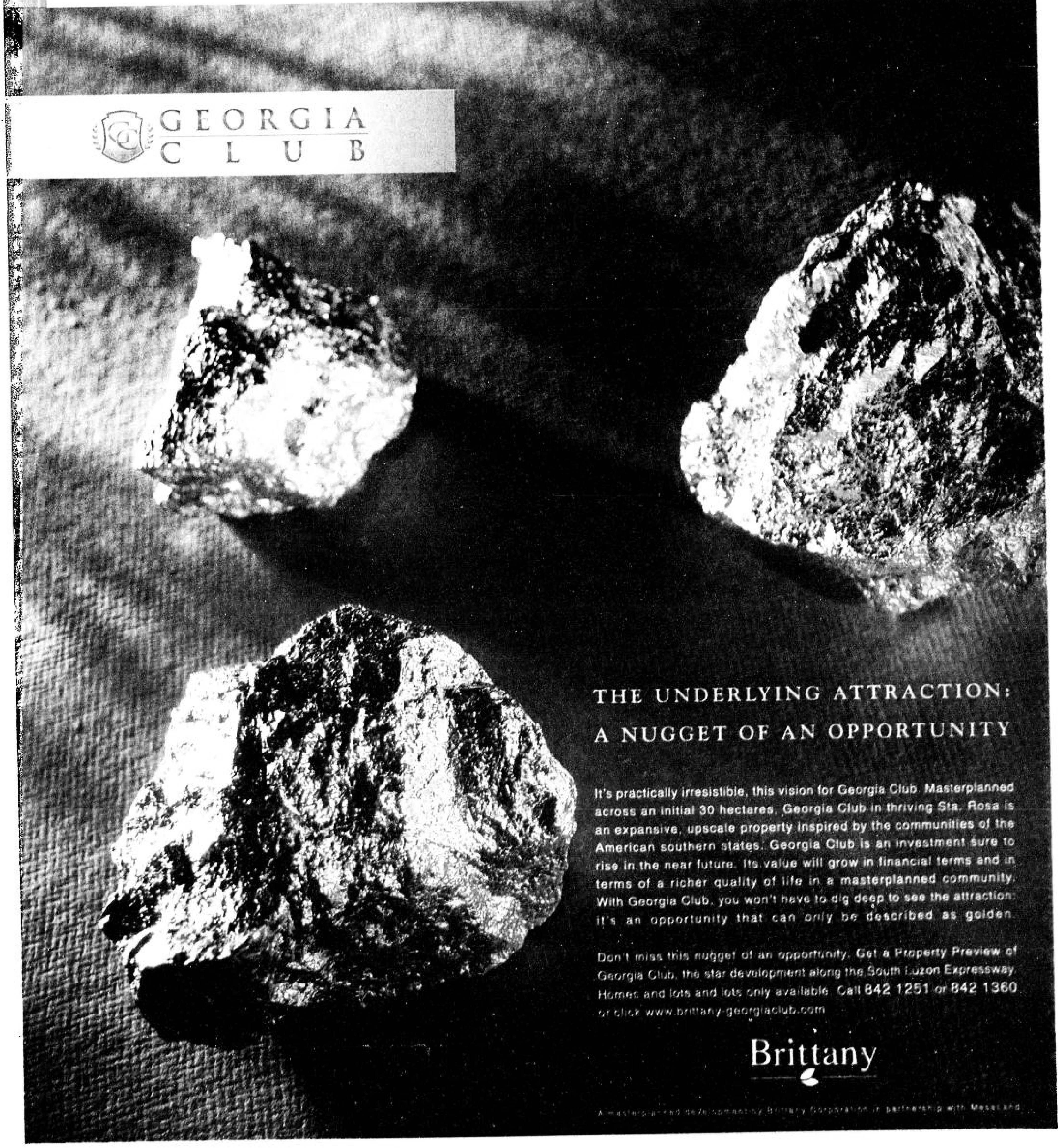

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Brittany

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"No eye has seen,
No ear has heard,
No mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love Him."
1 Corinthians 2:9

GREGORIO S. IMPERIAL JR.

Peacefully joined his Lord and Savior
on February 17, 2006 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Nita**; children **Nina** (†) and **Ping Francisco, Rico** and **Gina**, and **Gina** and **Jack Villadolid**; grandchildren **Raissa, Philip, Luigi, Matthew, Joshua, John Paul, Giannina, Jose Marie** and **Jeremy**, brothers and sisters **Boris** and **Cora, Raul** and **Marie, Ike** and **Delia, Josephine, Magda** and **Ditas**, relatives and friends request you to join in celebrating Tito's coming home to the Lord.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. mass in Mount Carmel.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, though he dies,"

Our Dearly Beloved

TIMOTEO N. SARTE, JR.

Of Pili, Cam. Sur & Naga City
Peacefully Joined his Creator on February 16, 2006 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **NIEVES**, *children,* **ROSARIO & NESTOR MANDIGMA, GIL JOSE & ANNIE, SANTIAGO & CRISTY, VIC & RHOELA, ALEXANDER & NOEMI, JET, DON & MARIJO, CARLO & FLORENDA,** *grandchildren* , **Niño, Jicjic, Kiko, Dang, Niña, Dodoy, Bunonoy, Dorothy, TJ, Raiza, RJ, Cindy, Kar, Indoy, Kyla, Pandoy, Tintin, Gaboy & BJ, Julia, Kim & Adrian,** *brothers, sisters and in-laws,* †MARTIN, †BISHOP CONCORDIO MA. SARTE, ANGELINA & EMILIO INANDAN, †LUDIVINA & †RENATO TURIANO, ATTY. ROMEO & LILIAN, ANTONIO & SALVACION, **Nieces, Nephews, relatives and friends** would like to request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Imperial Chapels, Peñafrancia Ave., Naga City. Interment will be on February 25, 2006 at Eternal Gardens, Naga City.

Daily evening Masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

KOA SIOK BEE vda de DY

(nee MARY KOA)

of San Fernando City, La Union

wish to express our profound gratitude for the spontaneous love, sympathy and support that all of you have shown during our time of grief.

We are humbly grateful and will find strength in knowing that she had touched so many lives in her concern for others.

She will continue to live in our hearts and through the lives we lead – a testament to her legacy of love, compassion, humility, and generosity.

Thank you very much.

Children **Aldrico, Victor, Anita, Pacita, Luis, and Gregorio,**
in-laws, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives.

PSCCM'S 8TH annual confab Feb. 22-23

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE (PSCCM) is inviting all interested doctors (family physicians, internists, pediatricians, surgeons, and critical care specialists) and allied medical personnel to its 8th Annual Convention on February 22-23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas, Pasig City. With its theme "Basic Concepts and Management of the Critically-Ill," the convention's speakers will deal on the basic concepts and management of common adult and pediatric critical care problems. Certificates of attendance and CME Units will be provided. Interested parties may contact Aisa Raymundo (02) 925-2401 local 3225/0918-6054709 or email to: psccm96@yahoo.com.

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DR. CONRADO PAULE JIMENEZ JR.

Founder of Sta. Cruz Academy
Sta. Cruz., Lubao, Pampanga
Former Municipal Councilor – Lubao, Pampanga
Former Municipal Mayor – Lubao, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Heavenly Creator on the 12th day of February 2006 at the age of 57.

He will definitely be missed by his beloved wife **Rosalia**; children: **John Glenn, Jennifer Anne & Nel, Jane Lorence & Ray, Joanna Rose & Chris and Jay Benigno**; grandchildren: **Carmen, Daniel, Alexa and Andreya**; as well as his brothers & sisters, brothers- & sisters-in-law, relatives, friends and his SCA family.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Sta. Cruz, Lubao, Pampanga.

Interment will be at the SAN JUAN MEMORIAL PARK, Lubao, Pampanga on February 21, 2006 (Tuesday) after the 6:00 am Mass at the STA. CRUZ ACADEMY, Sta. Cruz, Lubao Pampanga.

His family will appreciate your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

For more information, please call: Rose - (045) 971-6306
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Expansion continues at St. Peter

NOW ON IT'S 30TH year, St. Peter Chapels continues to provide the Filipino people with quality memorial service. True to its commitment to upgrading death care service to world-class levels in the country, St. Peter opened three new chapels: Trece Martires on February 9; Tarlac on February 10 and Antique on February 11. At present, St. Peter Chapels has branches in key cities and provinces nationwide. Strength in Service is assured by St. Peter Chapels.

Message of Thanks

We the family of the late

ARISTEO "Aris" TANTOCO YCASIANO

who passed away in the grace of our Lord on February 6, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

I am
the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except
through Me.
John 14:6

LUI WU YUET

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 15, 2006 at the age of 58.

Her husband **DR. ALBERTO M. LOU**; children **Michael** and **Arlene, Cristina** and **Johnson, Alberto II** and **Rosario** and grandchildren give thanks to the Lord for the blessings in her life.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Chapel B-7, 2nd Floor, South Wing, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 9:00 a.m. at the Chinese Cemetery Crematorium.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

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Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for

PACKAGE/DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	Date / Time / Venue		PRICE OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
		PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS	
Supply and Delivery of 70 Sets Computer Packages (PC Server, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), Laser Printer and Network Peripherals) for the DepED-GSIS Service Records Updating Project	4,117,155.00	March 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M., Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave. Pasig City	March 20, 2006, 2:00 P.M., Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave. Pasig City	Php 2,000.00

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Room 506, 5th Flr., Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on February 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical, and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Late bid shall be rejected.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http//www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurmentservice.gov.ph or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-65-43 or Fax No. 636-65-42.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

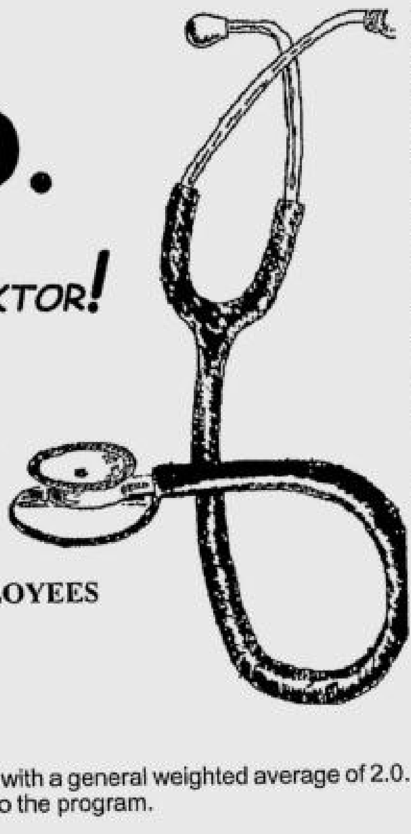
(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice Chairman

(PDI - Feb 19 & 26, 2006)

WANTED:

Pinoy M.D.

GUSTO KONG MAGING DOKTOR!



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or their children

Qualifications:

- Must have completed a 4 year undergraduate degree with a general weighted average of 2.0.
- Must not be more than 35 years old upon admission to the program.
- Must be of good moral character.
- Family income for the indigenous people and BHWs shall not be more than P200,000 per annum (combined).
- Parents, local health workers and DOH employees shall have a Salary Grade 15 and below.
- Must be willing to render 2 years service to the government for every year of the study.
- Must not shift to Nursing nor take a nursing course after graduation.

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Submit the following documents to the **DOH CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT** on or before **February 28, 2006** in your region:

- Transcript of Records or Form 137
- Birth Certificate
- Certificate of Good Moral Character
- Certificate of Registration of Parents as BHW
- Certificate of Employment (as local health worker or DOH employee)
- Income Tax Return
- Barangay Certificate/Identification Card/ Voter's Identification
- Return Service Contract

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
STUDY OF OPTIONS TO REDUCE FOSSIL POWER GENERATION IN MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
RURAL POWER PROJECT
CONSULTING SERVICES
GEF Grant No. TF052188

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE) and with grant assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is implementing the Rural Power Project (RPP).

The RPP aims to assist the country in making available affordable, reliable and adequate electricity that is used to meet the needs of the rural communities in a sustainable manner. On the global scale, the RPP would contribute towards the objective of mitigating climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through wider use of clean, renewable energy technologies in power generation. This would be complemented by grid system rehabilitation and loss reduction in distribution systems operated by electric cooperatives, which would lead to, increased efficiency of grid-based supply, and resultant avoidance of polluting fossil-fuelled power generation.

The RPP seeks to undertake a study to recommend options to reduce fossil power generation, in particular, high cost diesel dependence in Mindanao. The DOE plans to recruit a consultant team to conduct an options assessment study. Options may include hydropower and geothermal power plant rehabilitation; new renewable energy plant deployment; isolated diesel generators rehabilitation, upgrade or replacement; supply and demand side management; removal of transmission bottlenecks; efficiency improvements; and power pricing and plant dispatch strategies. The study output would be a ranked order of economically and financially viable options to maximize fossil power displacement. Also, the consultants will undertake a technical review of the power grid including the dispatch modelling of the least cost/most fuel-efficient combination of plants in Mindanao considering the present grid configuration and limitation. Grid bottlenecks preventing more cost effective dispatch strategies being implemented will be identified and conceptual-level solutions will be suggested. For high value options, the consultants would recommend investment strategies that can be implemented given the financial and other constraints faced by the public sector entities as well as the requirements under the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001." In a later phase under separate contract, the consultants may be called upon to undertake detailed feasibility studies of selected options; and prepare bid and other documents for implementing selected options. A wide variety of expertise is likely to be needed ranging from hydrologists, geologists, geoscientists, geothermal and hydropower specialists, transmission and load management experts, civil and electro-mechanical engineers, as well as utility financial/economic analysts, power policy and regulatory experts and utility planners. The level of effort for both international and national consultants is likely to be in the range of 20-30 staff-months.

The DOE now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* published in January 1977 (revised in September 1977, January 1999, and May 2002).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1700 hours.

Department of Energy
Attn: Melinda L. Ocampo, Undersecretary
4th Floor, DOE Bldg. Energy Center, Merritt Road
Global City, Taguig Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: (632) 8402173
Fax: (632) 8402067
E-mail: mlo_phg@doe.gov.ph and/or mycaps@doe.gov.ph

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by March 10, 2006, 5:00 o' clock in the afternoon.

The Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

(PDI--Feb. 19, 2006)

URGENTLY NEEDS

(2) Accounting Staff
Qualifications:
College Graduate (BS Accountancy)
25-35 years old
With 3 years experience

(2) Dining Supervisors
Qualifications:
College Graduate (HRM or BS Management)
25-35 years old
Good communication skill
With 3 years experience

(4) Service Crew
Qualifications:
Male and Female
23-30 years old
With 2 years experience

(1) Operations Manager
Qualifications:
Graduate in BS Management
Male or Female
With 3 years experience

(1) Registered Nurse
Qualifications:
Female, 25-30 years
Licensed and with experience

Submit your resumé to:
Ms. Pazie Timola
Unit 400, Puso ng Maynila Bldg.
1046 U.N. Ave. cor. A. Mabini, Ermita, Manila
Tel. 528-4088

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

ACCOUNTANT

- MALE/FEMALE, SINGLE
- NOT MORE THAN 25 YRS. OLD
- ACCOUNTING GRADUATE
- WITH EXPERIENCE & COMPUTER LITERATE

INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY IN PERSON AND SUBMIT THEIR RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE AT:

BELCO MARKETING, INC.
2/F Harrison Plaza, A. Mabini St.
Malate, Manila Tel. No. 5267128/5360891

More Classified Ads on pages A2, A5, A9, A11, A17 & A25.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Wellareville Property, through the Wellareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfare property located in Mandaluyong City known as Parcel 1-East Side with an approximate area of 718,313 square meters with a value of Php19,000 per square meter as the minimum bid price.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon March 24, 2006 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Wellareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel 1 shall be ready for distribution on February 20, 2006 at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000.00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from Director M. Nicomedes J. Castillo, Asset Management Group at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel. no 931-8101 loc. 142.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on March 24, 2006, at the Boardroom 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is 2:00 p.m. on May 19, 2006. Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 p.m., the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERWIN L. TIAMSON
DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the CENTRAL CATV, INC. (SKYCABLE) Official Receipts with the following Serial Numbers have been declared lost:

162201-162250
162451-162500
158551-158600
144951-145000
142601-142650
142651-142700
138701-138750

The CENTRAL CATV, INC. (SKYCABLE) will not honor transactions involving the above series of Official Receipts.

SKYCABLE®

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-0400036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting applications for the grant objective:

Installation and Maintenance of Workplace Family Planning (FP) Program in Firms without FP Program [Code: RFA # 2006-01-03]

Grant funding will be provided to successful applications in accordance with the standard USAID policies.

This call for application is open to non-government organizations (NGOs) as well as private sector for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Application (RFA) document.

The full request for application (RFA) document will be released on February 15, 2006. Copies can be downloaded from the PRISM Grants Yahoo group **(http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/)** or can be requested from **grants@prism.org.ph.**

Details of the call for application will be fully discussed in a grant conference. The conference will be held on March 01, 2006 at 10am (PRISM Manila office); February 24, 2006 at 10am (Cebu PRISM Office) and February 27, 2006, 10am (Davao PRISM Office). Please secure complete address of the venue for the conference from Lila Clavel at telephone number 635-2397 local 275.

For any other inquiry please email grants@prism.org.ph.

(PDI–Feb. 15 & 19, 2006)

National Steel Corporation

FOR BIDDING

	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
A.	Retired Assets at Export Bodega	255 Line Items
B.	Machineries at Machine Shop	6 Units
C.	Computer Servers	1 Lot
D.	Survey Instruments	1 Lot
E.	Various Items	11 Line Items
F.	Clinic Instruments, Equipment & Fixtures	1 Lot

NOTES:
1. Items are located and can be inspected at the former National Steel Corporation Iligan Plant, Suarez, Iligan City c/o Mr. Pat Capuno Tel. No. (063) 492-2881 to 82.
2. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam. Detailed list of items for bidding may be secured from this office.
3. Deadline for submission of offer is on March 3, 2006 at 2PM.
4. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept such proposals as may be considered most advantageous to its interest.

(PDI--Feb. 12 & 19, 2006)

EK, Globe present a day of celebration for Team Philippines

THE WORLD-CLASS ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR Pinoy athletes have led many to hail them as modern-day heroes. Nowhere was their courage and passion more evident than in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last year, when Team Philippines once again proved the great things that Filipinos can make possible.

To thank these outstanding men and women for their efforts, Globe (the official wireless partner of the 23rd SEA Games), in cooperation with Enchanted Kingdom Inc, treated them to a day trip at the Enchanted Kingdom theme park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Our hardworking champions got a well-deserved chance to celebrate and relax as they enjoyed the rides and shows together with their teammates. Competitors in almost all the SEA Games sports -- many of whom have won medals for the country -- joined the fun.

A thanksgiving mass and buffet dinner were also held in celebration of the Philippines' sweeping victory at the SEA Games. The evening program, hosted by Anthony Suntay, was attended by local officials such as Laguna 1st District Rep. Uliran Joaquin, 2nd District Rep. Justin Chepeco, and Sta. Rosa Mayor Joey Catindig. Mario Mamon, chair and president of Enchanted Kingdom Inc, warmly welcomed the athletes, saying, "Our country should truly be proud of you, our modern-day heroes. Team Philippines, has proved to the whole world what Filipinos are capable of accomplishing, and we are honored to have this opportunity to thank you all."

Philippine Olympic Committee President Jose "Peping" Cojuangco lauded the athletes for bringing honor to the country, and also thanked Globe for its valuable contribution to the Philippine team's success. "Hosting the SEA Games gave us an opportunity to unite our people under a common goal. We couldn't have done it without the support of all Filipinos and of sponsors like Globe. By recognizing the value of sports, Globe set a good example and helped us prove that we can achieve victory despite the odds," he affirmed.

Globe also presented a special performance by Rivermaya, whose rousing rendition of their SEA Games hymn "Posible" served as a rallying cry for the athletes and the whole nation. The "Banda ng Bayan" played many of their well-loved hit songs, to the guests' delight. The whole RP team then joined in a triumphant chorus of "Posible," reliving the spirit of unity and camaraderie that marked them as world-class winners. An awesome fireworks display and laser light show courtesy of the Enchanted Kingdom management capped this truly exciting day.

"We salute all the members of the Philippine Team for the hope and inspiration that they have brought to the whole nation," says Dodo Reyes, Globe's head of media and advertising and project leader for the SEA Games sponsorship. "This event is our way of showing our appreciation for all their achievements, and of reaffirming our company's faith in Filipino excellence."

OPERATION WE CARE 2006 HELD IN MANDALUYONG

Organized by the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong, the Office of the Mayor, and the Mandaluyong City Medical Center (MCMC), Rotary International's US-based contingent of surgeons, mostly Fil-Ams joined by their American colleagues, has successfully concluded its five-day medical mission dubbed 'Operation We Care 2006', which ran from Feb. 6 to 10. In photo during the first day of the medical mission at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center is Mayor Boyet Gonzales flanked by (not in order) current and past president of Rotary Club of Mandaluyong lawyer Boy Santiago and Albert Ang, respectively, Dr. Alfred Lo and Dr. Fernando Santos of MCMC, Rotary International Operation We Care co-team leader Dr. Mel Simon with team members Tony Macuray, Brent Harris, Mikal Lindman, and Brenda Jones.

WIN WWE RAW LIVE TOUR TICKETS FROM PIZZA HUT

Pizza Hut, the home to the country's 'Pinaka-Pizza,' gives you a chance to score free tickets to the 'WWE Raw Live Tour' happening on Feb. 24 and 25 at the Araneta Coliseum. Join the 'Up Close & Personal with WWE Superstars at Pizza Hut' promo for a chance to win two of 30 Upper Box A tickets to the WWE Raw Tour . This promo is open to dine-in, takeout and delivery customers of Pizza Hut who purchase a minimum single-receipt purchase of P800 at selected restaurants in Metro Manila and Rizal. What's more, 10 lucky winners will get to meet top WWE stars Mick Foley, current WWE Champion John Cena, Intercontinental Champion Ric Flair, World Tag Team Champions Big Show and Kane, and Women's Champion Trish Stratus in person on Feb. 24, 11 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Manila Hotel. These 10 lucky Pizza Hut customers will also win 2 tickets each to the WWE Raw Live Tour. Pizza Hut is also giving away 20 WWE T-shirts and caps as consolation prizes. For more details, visit your nearest Pizza Hut Restaurant now or see flyers and posters.

Datu Marikudo 2006 search held at Boracay

MATCH EVENTS PRODUCTIONS, HEADED by Bess Tonel, recently staged the third "Datu Marikudo Male Model Search," a yearly pageant held in the Philippines' world-famous tourist destination, Boracay Island. Held at Seraph Hotel in Boracay, the model search also featured the latest men's wear collections of Avel Bacudio, Dong Omaga Diaz, Richard Papa, Gerry Katigbak and Barge Ramos.

Paolo Inocencio ran away with the title of "Datu Marikudo 2006" and "Designers' Choice Award," with Romeo Javelosa as first runner-up and Joeranier Zamora as second runner-up. "Best in Resort Wear" was a tie between Carlo Ignacio and John Percival Calara. Marlon Viado won the title of "Most Photogenic" while "Datu Friendship" went to Louie Stephan Zambarrano. The youngest candidate, 17-year-old John Tanchuan of Iloilo won as the "Most Promising Model." Romeo Javelosa of Lumban, Laguna, won in "Best Swimwear," and "Best in Formal Resort" went to both Joeranier Zamora and Randolf Dungo.

The Marikudo medallions for the winners were designed and executed by Arnel Papa. Brian Tenorio designed the black, minimalist thong sandals for the designers' collections. Stylists for the event were Jinky Ilusorio, Marlon Suarez, Lourd Ramos and Gary Lumapas.

The Datu Marikudo Model Search has produced several commercial and ramp models, including Jan Castro of Ateneo de Manila University and Don Mendoza of La Salle-Dasmariñas.

The other finalists in this year's search include Froilan Caguiat, Rommel Reynoso, Richard Lirit, Ernesto Torrefiel and Jaypee Jusay. The members of the board of judges were Angie Corro of Manila Bulletin, TV director Don Cuaresma of ABS-CBN, Dr. Tony Mendoza, Michelle Meneses of Diamond Hotel Philippines, and Vanessa Ordinario of Rustan's Essenses. The pageant was hosted by actress Jean Garcia.

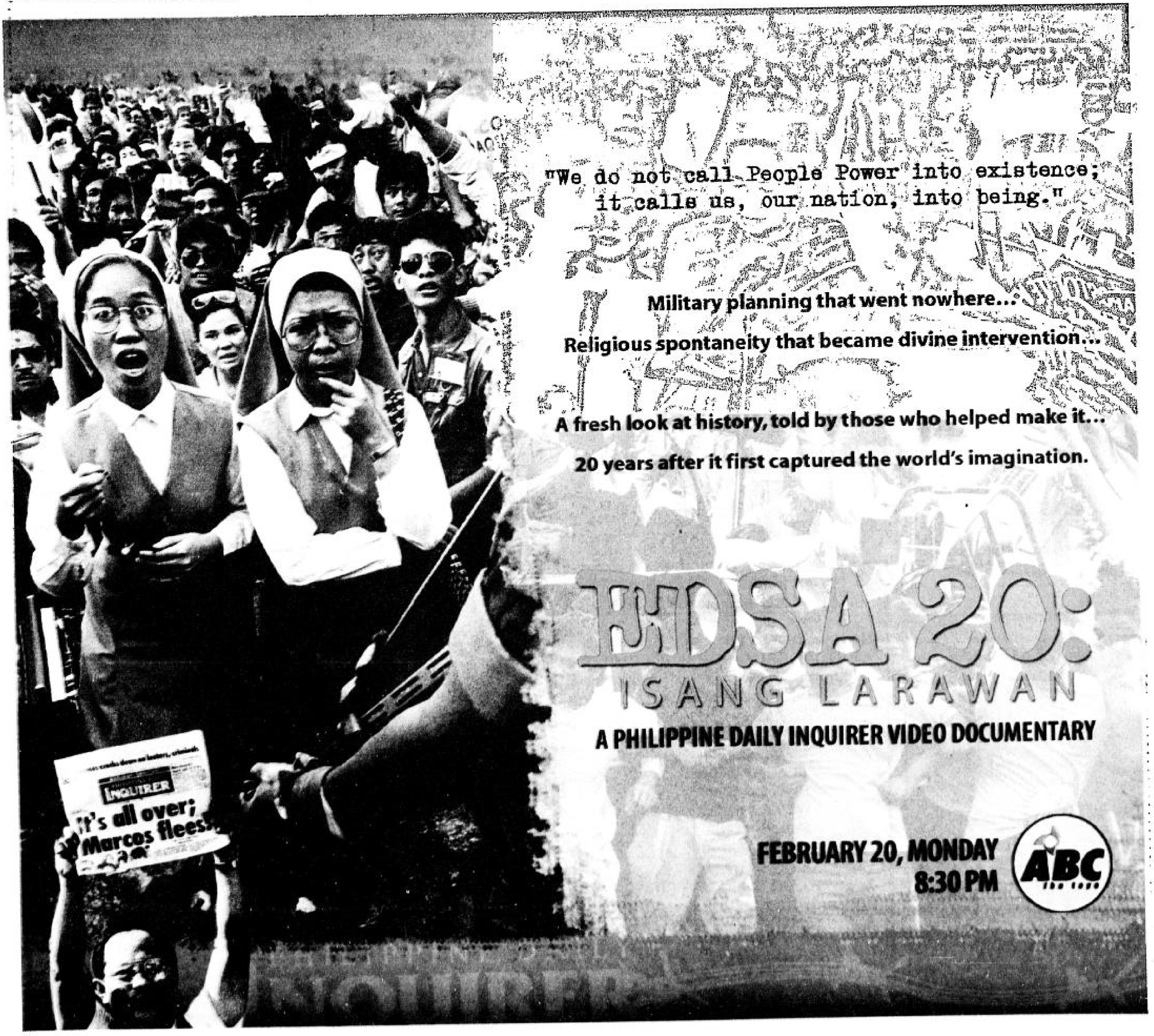
Directed by Ogee Atos, Datu Marikudo Male Model Search 2006 was presented by Seraph Hotel, co-presented by Diamond Hotel Philippines and Rustan's Essenses with MBRS Lines, Red Coconut Beach Hotel Boracay, A Rock Beach Resort, Island Chicken Inasal Boracay, Smoke Resto Boracay, Café Breizh Boracay, Gasthof Café Deli and Grill Boracay, Summer Place Bar, Cocomangas Shooter Bar, Puka Grande Resort Boracay, Laut Sowaib Souvenir Shop, Crafts de Boracay, Sasha Sailing Club, Diamond Sea Sports Boracay, Jony's Beach Resort Boracay, Cardline Inc., Go Nuts Donuts, Vivo Party Balloons and Salon de Manila. Media partners of the event were Woman Today and Jam 88.3.

AMVEL CHOOSES CPMI

Amvel Land Development Corp, recently appointed Century Properties Management Inc (CPMI) to provide professional property management for its Amvel Business Park in Sucat, Parañaque. Shown are (seated from left): Paul I. Navarro, CPMI's SVP for operations, Dr. Franklin M. Velarde and Sherry Velarde-Yambao, managing director of Amvel; (standing from left) Gerry Mina, CPMI's property management director, and Ma. Cristina Romero, property management marketing and operations support services.

WATER PIPELINE SET FOR FAMILIES OF SAN MATEO

Manila Water will lay a new water pipeline for 1,000 families living in New San Mateo Subdivision, Gitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal. Photo shows (from left) Board of Investment Director for Legal Services Pascual De Guzman, Manila Water Business Group Director for Business Group Miguel Jose T. Navarrete, BOI Director for Supervision and Monitoring Angela Fernando, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade, Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino, BOI Administrative Department Director Bobby Fondevilla and Manila Water Marikina Area Business Manager Tina Estandarte during the groundbreaking ceremony.


"We do not call People Power into existence; it calls us, our nation, into being."
Military planning that went nowhere...
Religious spontaneity that became divine intervention...
A fresh look at history, told by those who helped make it...
20 years after it first captured the world's imagination.
EDSA 20:
ISANG LARAWAN
A PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VIDEO DOCUMENTARY
FEBRUARY 20, MONDAY
8:30 PM
ABC
INQUIRER
It's all over; Marcos flees!

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRISM PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International, Inc. is soliciting offers for:

Conduct of Rapid Assessment of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao For Private Sector Involvement in Family Planning

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for family planning (FP) services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

The implementation of carefully selected PRISM strategic activities outlined in the work plans of the three technical components, are carried out in geographic areas, e.g., provinces or cities, and called strategic intervention areas (SIAs). The SIAs are conceived as the laboratory for PRISM project staff, its consortium partners, and the area-based partners to ensure that synchronization of component strategies and the convergence of the project component activities will result to the motivation and capacity of the private sector to market, sell, and distribute competitive FP products and services.

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified, responsible Philippine-based research/consulting companies/ firms, foundations, or non-government organizations (hereafter referred to as "Offeror") for the conduct of "Rapid Assessment of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao for Private Sector Involvement in Family Planning". The primary objective of the rapid assessment is to scan the local environment and identify opportunities and constraints as well as potential partners for the effective implementation of the three project component activities.

Qualification Requirements

- Must be a Philippine or US-based research/consulting companies/ firms, foundations, or non-government organizations
- Must be in operation for the past 3 years and have relevant experience in ARMM
- Must have a team of qualified personnel to manage and execute the project.
- Must have a positive net worth for 2004 or 2005 whichever is applicable

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, please get in touch with Mr. Roldan B. Ramos, Subcontracts Specialist at tel/fax. no. (02) 635-2397 local 226 or email: rramos@prism.org.ph. Interested parties may also download a copy of the RFP at http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMContracts/

The deadline for submission of proposals is on or **before 5:00 P.M, Monday, March 17, 2006**. Please see RFP for instructions on proposal submission.

Questions on RFP must be submitted not later than March 10, 2006 by e-mail or fax at the attention of Mr. Roldan Ramos. The answers will be posted at the PRISM Contracts yahoo groups or sent to all parties who requested a copy of the RFP through e-mail.

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of six (6) months material requirements stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

PACKAGE 1.

1.	Conductor, Duplex # 6 AWG	- 28,474 meters
2.	Conductor, Poly ACSR # 2	- 15,400 meters
3.	Conductor, ACSR #2	- 7,220 meters
4.	Conductor, THHN, Copper, Stranded #8	- 14,050 meters
5.	Conductor, THHN, Copper, Stranded #6	- 13,950 meters

PACKAGE 2.

1.	Pole, Concrete, 25'-00", Cl-7A, Round, CP	- 62 pcs.
2.	Pole, Concrete, 25'-00", Cl-10A, Round, CP	- 50 pcs.
3.	Pole, Concrete, 30'-00", Cl-7A, Round, CP	- 100 pcs.
4.	Pole, Concrete, 35'-00", Cl-7A, Round, CP	- 50 pcs.
5.	Pole, Steel, 30' -00", Octagonal	- 50 pcs.

PACKAGE 3.

1.	Meter KV2C, Fitzall, Cl-20, Fm 48A, New	- 15 units
2.	Meter KV2C, Fitzall, Cl-20, Fm 3S, New	- 5 units
3.	Soft Switch, Load Profile, R	- 10 pcs.
4.	Current Trans., 15KV, 20/15/10:5, Wirges	- 15 units
5.	Potential Trans., 70:1, SB-120, 8.4 KV, Wirges	- 15 units

PACKAGE 4.

1. Six (6) months supplies for the following items:
   a. Line Hardwares, connectors, fuse links, steel cross-arms lighting arresters, cut-outs, disconnecting switch, and grip
   b. Service entrance materials and anchor plastic seal.

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLITO D. MAGCALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at, San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac., Philippines beginning February 22, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents - February 28, 2006
Date and Time of Prebid Conference - February 28, 2006, 1:30 PM

Date and Time of Bidding shall announced during the Prebid Conference.

Accredited suppliers previously prequalified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or all Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) PABLITO D. MAGCALAS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 19 & 23, 2006)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested coal mining contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the **LUMBOG SATELLITE MINE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (MP06-002)**. The contract duration is Two Hundred Forty (240) Calendar Days.

The approved budget for this contract is Php 4,770,334.12 chargeable against PNOC EC 2006 Corporate Budget.

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Procurement Assistant (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting February 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS. One Thousand Five Hundred (PHP 1,500.00).

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184 The Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and to be awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided that the concerned Bidder shall pass the post-qualification process.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 9, 2006, 10:00 A.M.** at the PNOC EC Malangas Coal Terminal, Zamboanga Sibugay Province.

The Eligibility Requirements and the Bid Documents, composed of two (2) sealed envelope, the first envelope containing the Technical Bid and the second envelope containing the Financial Bid shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than **3:00 P.M. of March 22, 2006** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 19 & 26, 2006)

DIRECT TERRITORY SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- College Graduate or equivalent work experience in selling fast-moving-consumer-goods (FMCG)
- Single, not more than 28 years old
- With proven & verifiable track record in wholesale & Retail Trade selling. Familiar with Metro Manila
- Good in conceptualizing and implementing marketing plans, strategies and promotion mix.
- Computer literate (MS Word, Spreadsheets, Internet)
- Highly personable, proactive attitude and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Handles work related pressure well & can work with minimum supervision

Opportunity to grow with a dynamic company awaits qualified applicant. Personally bring your application letter (w/2x2 picture), resumé, T.O.R. & previous employment certificates at:

OXYLIFE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Suite 307 Regina Building 100 Aguirre corner
Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 8171140 Fax 8174074

GOOD SAMARITAN
Staffing Services International (US Co.)

NURSES FOR US

(DIRECT HIRING)

Preferably SGFNS, NCLEX, TOEFEL, TSE PASSERS

Apply now...(No fees to be collected, final interview will be this end of month)

Please bring 2 xerox copies of the following docs:

- Resumé with detailed job description, responsibilities, area of specialization (ICCU-ICU ER, Med-Surg, etc)
- PRC license, Board Rating, Diploma, transcript of Records, Birth Certificate
- Exam Certificate for US Board
- Certificate/s of Employment, Training, Seminars, Workshop

Apply now at #20 K0J St., corner K-8th St. East Kamias, Q.C. or call Bessy at Tel. No. 4336656 (1-5PM only) for more details

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CENTENNIAL GUARANTEE ASSURANCE CORPORATION hereby posts this public announcement that their insurance corporation has ceased doing business with **ONEGEN MARKETING SERVICES CORPORATION** since August 25, 2005 and has accordingly formally cancelled the Memorandum of Agreement dated March 01, 2005.

Any transaction by any person with Onegen Marketing Services Corporation without prior knowledge and consent which may involve Centennial Guarantee Assurance Corporation in any capacity whatsoever, more particularly in its capacity as an insurance company is disauthorized and will not be honored and, Centennial Guarantee Assurance Corporation will not take any responsibility therefore.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Feb. 19, 2006)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Lease of a portion of the 2nd floor of the Administrative & Finance (A&F) Bldg., CCP Complex

Brief Project Description: The space at the 2nd floor of the A & F Bldg. with an area of 654.73 sq. meters located at the corner of Fernando Ma. Guerrero and Julian Felipe Sts., CCP Complex, Pasay City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 24, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 07, 2006; 3:00 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before March 21, 2006; 3:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/ certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for the contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 21, 2006, 3:00 p.m. at the CCP Board Room, 3/Floor, Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

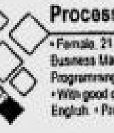
The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. : 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. : 632-551-5960
Website : www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Feb. 19 & 26, 2006)



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Renewal of License with DOLE

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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PRPA LICENSE. M-05-08-224 ☐ New ☒ Renewal
TIN NO. 00-127-206-000

This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to

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Salcedo Village, Makati City

pursuant to the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid for the period 13 August 2005 to 12 August 2007 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer of use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 21st day of September 2005.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Preparation of Strategic and First Year Communications and Investment Promotion Plans and Website

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
RURAL POWER PROJECT
CONSULTING SERVICES
GEF Grant No. TF052188

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE), and with grant assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is implementing the Philippines Rural Power Project (RPP). The DOE has established a Project Management Office (PMO) to lead the implementation of the project.

The PMO will conduct information and communications activities to increase awareness of the rural power investment opportunities for the private sector and the related policies, plans, regulations and incentives for rural electrification and rural and renewable energy market development. These activities will be geared to generating a deal flow of investments and, secondarily but critically, to maintaining information flow and cohesion among public sector stakeholders to facilitate the capturing of synergies and to maintain a conducive business environment. RPP communications and investment promotion plans and website will be developed and updated periodically. Among the initial tasks are the development of the RPP strategic and first year plans that are integral parts of the PMO's business plan for RPP.

The DOE-PMO invites local consultancy firms to develop the strategic plan for communications and investment promotion, the first year plan of activities and website for the Philippines Rural Power Project.

The assignment will require the services of three professionals in communications, marketing, program business plan development and website development: (1) a business and market development specialist with a demonstrated capability and creativity to prepare effective marketing and communications plans, budgets and core sections of terms of reference for procurement documents. Experience in investment promotion would be particularly useful; (2) a marketing and communications professional with skills in market assessments, developing market strategies and preparing marketing materials; and, (3) a professional with expertise in website development and management.

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by Bank Borrowers*, published in January 1997, revised in September 1997, January 1999, and May 2002. Interested Parties may obtain further information from the contact person and address below during office hours (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.):

Mylene C. Capongcol
Project Director
Rural Power Project
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telefax Numbers 840-2120 or 840-5593
Email Address: mycaps@doe.gov.ph

The Expression of Interest must also be delivered to the address above on or before **March 10, 2006** (up to 5:00 p.m.). The letters of interests should be submitted, together with the following documents: (1) company profile; (2) curriculum vitae (CV) of proposed staff; and, (3) track record broken down into domestic and international contracts as well as on-going and completed projects, including description of similar assignments and work experience.

New eye technology for the elderly

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF elderly Filipinos have cataract or the clouding of the eyes' lens. Many more, if not millions, are suffering from presbyopia -- a condition where men and women over forty, start losing their focus on close objects, having difficulty reading and seeing in the dark, and begin thinking of visiting their optometrist and buying their first pair of reading eyeglasses.

Asian Eye Institute's (AEI) immunology and retina specialist Dr. Harvey Siy Uy confidently states, "This is an exciting time we are in. Even if you're 80 today, you see as clearly as a 30-year old. For the first time in human history, presbyopia can now be corrected. Previously, once you reach 40, you cannot see the small things anymore but for otherwise healthy eyes, receiving an advanced IOL can return vision to where it was and when you were, say 30 years old."

Intraocular Lens or what is more popularly known as IOLs are like contact lenses, except they are permanently placed inside the eyes, require no maintenance and last a lifetime. Cataract sufferers have been benefiting from this technology for decades now as they are used in cataract surgery. They allow the eyes to see better and lessen a patient's need to wear eyeglasses after surgery.

Dr. Uy explains, "In cataract surgery, IOLs act as replacement lenses for the "dirty lenses," or the cataract, that had been removed. With a new lens inside the eye, light entering the retina can be correctly focused. That's why a patient sees better." The older IOL models only allowed distance vision correction and therefore, will require a patient to use reading glasses later on.

Recently, a new generation of advanced IOLs has been developed, enabling IOLs to correct presbyopia; and very high grades that cannot be treated even with laser surgery.

"These IOLs, particularly the AcrySof Restor, does three things. First, enables one to see far without glasses, second, lets elderly patients read without glasses, and third, it restores vision after cataract surgery, "says Dr. Uy. "This lens also blocks the harmful radiation so that the eyes will not degenerate or grow old quickly," he adds.

So if you want to take advantage of this technology, Dr. Uy advises to visit AEI for a thorough evaluation of your condition. "Senior citizens can, of course, avail of a 20 percent discount," he smiles.

For inquiries about Intraocular Lens, please call 898-2020 or e-mail eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com. You may also log on to www.asianeyeinstitute.com for more information.

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GLOBE IN TRAVELTOUR EXPO '06

Globe Telecom recently supported the 13th TravelTour Expo 2006. The event organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) was held at the SM Megatrade Halls. The 13th TravelTour Expo featured the biggest gathering of travel agents, tour operators, hotels and resorts, and allied services. The eagerly-awaited event featured the best travel deals to guests and attendees. Signing the agreement marking the support of Globe Telecom for the event were (from left) Angelo Yaneza, Globe senior marketing manager, Lucille M. Chabeldin, organizing committee chair - TTE 2006, Heidi Dyangko, Globe senior manager, Jose C. Clemente III, PTAA president, Annette Feliciano, TTE 2006 adviser and Trippy, the show's mascot.

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1. Simply dial the number you are calling
2. Press Option
3. Click Call
4. Select Video Call

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2006
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Sunday LifeStyle

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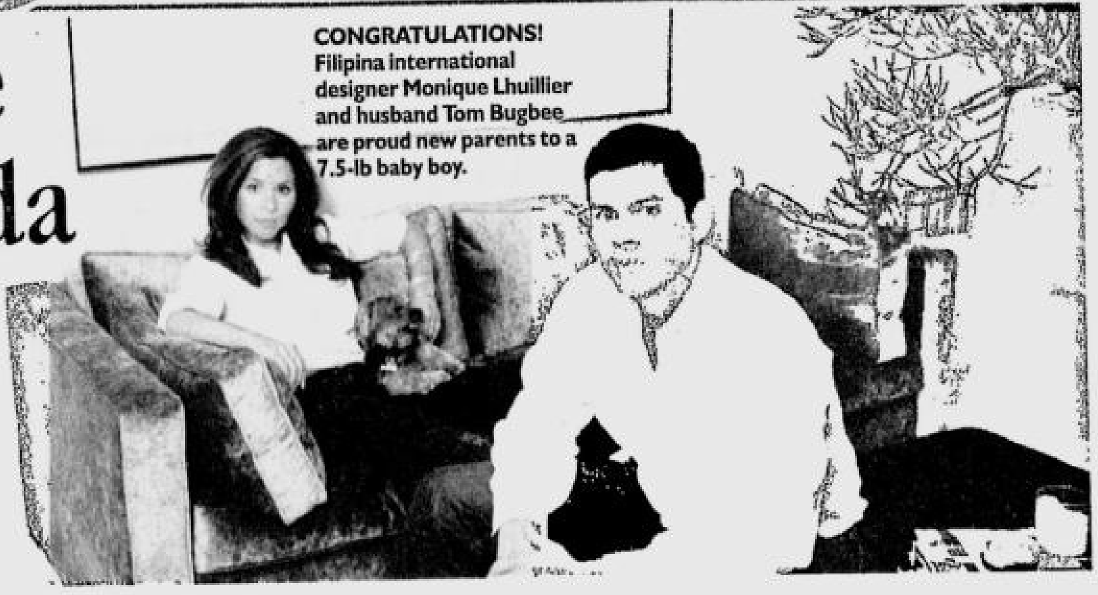
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

POPE Benedict steps out in red Prada loafers.

The Pope wears Prada

And after 10 years, fashion designer Monique Lhuillier and husband welcome their first baby



CONGRATULATIONS! Filipina international designer Monique Lhuillier and husband Tom Bugbee are proud new parents to a 7.5-lb baby boy.

IN STORK NEWS—MONIQUE and husband Tom Bugbee have more cause to celebrate, as last Jan. 17 they became proud parents to a 7.5-lb bouncing baby boy, Jack Nicholas Lhuillier Bugbee.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

She gave birth at Cedars Sinai Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles via normal delivery, earlier than anticipated. Proud grandparents Michel and Amparito Lhuillier rushed to her side.

The couple had been trying to have a baby for 10 years and were ecstatic about the birth. To the couple, our congratulations, and to Baby Jack, welcome to the world!

Monique Lhuillier recently showed her Fall/Winter 2006 collection in New York, and IHT's fashion empress Suzy Menkes has this to say, "(Lhuillier's collection)... was of generous shapes from a square blush pink metallic brocade coat to a trapeze jacket decorated with a giant rose. Lhuillier said that the brocades and jacquards, channeling 1960s haute couture, were inspired by interior design books she studied while pregnant. If the collection occasionally looked like perambulating drapes, it had a lot of gentle charm. And this designer, embraced by Hollywood, has just the bell skirts, cape sleeves and subtle puff ball effects to take the most pregnant movie star down the red carpet."

And in breaking news, Lhuillier's first Philippine fund-raising fashion show is in the planning stages and will be held sometime in October 2006. Now that's more cause for celebration. Check out this column for updates!

The Pope wears Prada. He may not have the charisma and soft, sensitive eyes of his predecessor, but one thing that Pope Benedict has is fashion sense.

He was dubbed by the Italian press as "Pope Prada" when he was spotted last December wearing Gucci sunglasses and bright red Prada loafers.

Vatican officials have been quick to defend the Pope's attire, saying "he does not know a Gucci from a smoochie." He has likewise revitalized some vestments that have not been seen for a while, like the caumaro (head covering) or the mozzetta (velvet cape).

Another subject of espresso chat are the papal's hemlines. The pope has allegedly shortened them to a tad above the ankle. After the international press showed photos of him in his red loafers, the papal's hemlines were lowered.

Must-buy book—"Ngalang Pinoy." If you are looking for a perfect gift for *balikbayan* friends or for yourself, this book surely will tickle your funny bone. It's the sequel to the runaway bestseller "You Know You're Filipino If...," and this time around the book is a pun on the Filipinos' innovation for language and names.

An excerpt reads, "Only in the Philippines do parents name their children after doorbell sounds—Bingbing, Dingdong, Bongbong"; or names a hair salon Felix d' Cut, a fitness center Gym Carry, or a haberdashery James Tailor. Then there are the names of restos—Cooking ng Ina Mo and Cooking ng Ina Mo Rin.

I was at a dinner when my friend Lizette Cojuangco gave me this book and we all laughed out loud at the following: Real names—Mercedes Benzon, Luis Buiton Viaje and Merry Christmas Aguinaldo; restaurants—Ken Afford, LBM restaurant and Gutom Jones.

Next time you are stuck in traffic you might spot one of these taxis—Cocheko Taxi, Lord and Lady and Ali-win.

Celebrate your Pinoy-ness by purchasing a copy of the book.

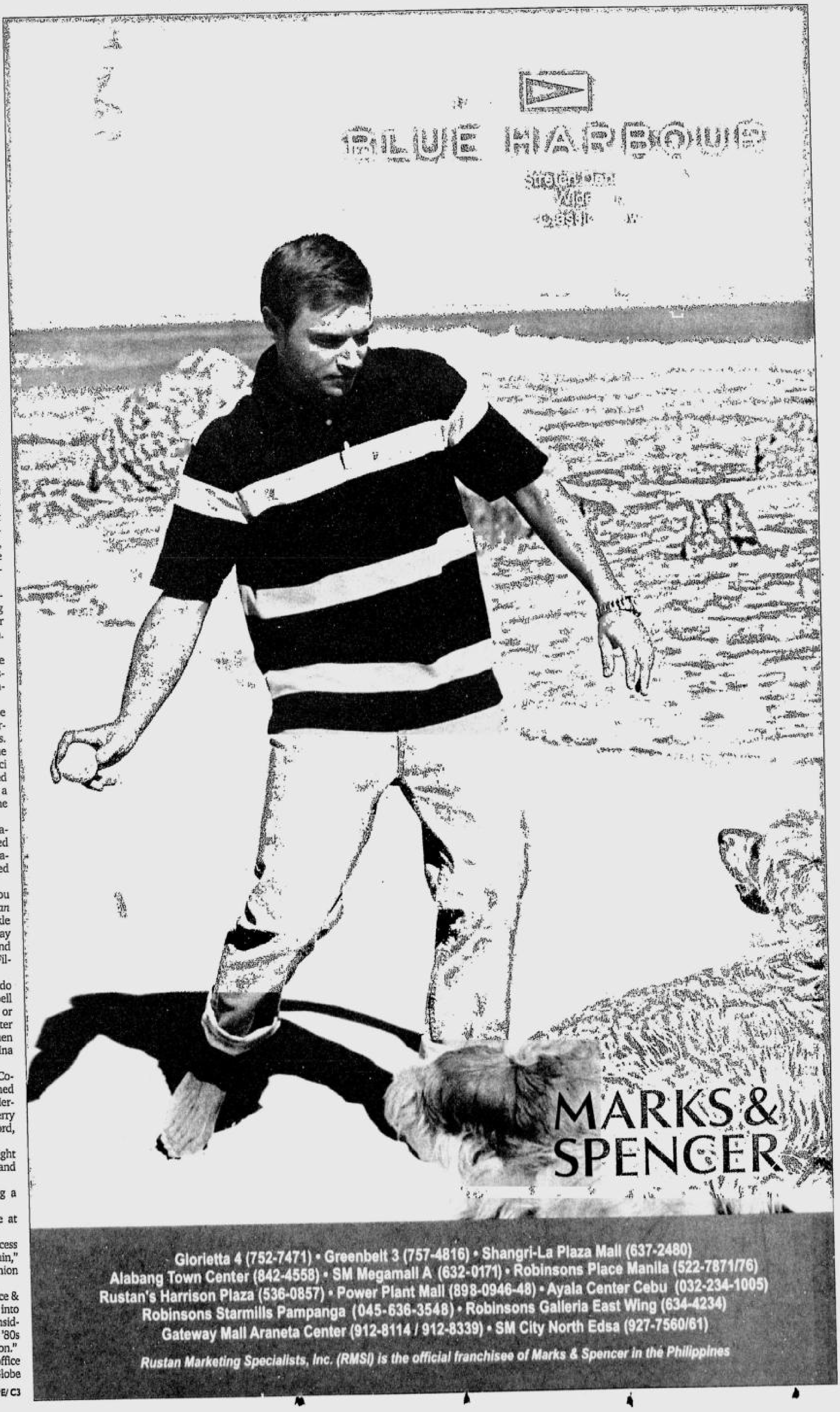
For more information visit their website at www.tahananbooks.com/ngalangpinoy.

Cowboy look is back. With the huge success and critical acclaim of "Brokeback Mountain," the recently concluded Fall/Winter 2006 fashion shows saw the return of cowboy chic.

Major designer brands, from Prada to Dolce & Gabbana and D2, have incorporated the look into their collection and, according to fashion insiders, "Not since the movie 'Out of Africa' in the '80s has a film had a major impact on men's fashion."

The movie has been the unexpected box-office hit of 2005-06 and has won four Golden Globe

THE POPE/ C3



MARKS & SPENCER

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Rustan's Harrison Plaza (536-0857) • Power Plant Mall (898-0946-48) • Ayala Center Cebu (032-234-1005)
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (045-636-3548) • Robinsons Galleria East Wing (634-4234)
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Rustan Marketing Specialists, Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines

PICTURE Company owners Eileen and Vincent Grey

WASABI Hawker's new owner, Philip Ng, with his wife, Malou

WORLD of Feng Shui owner Maritess Allen, Rosan Cruz and Ricco Ocampo

BIRTHDAY celebrator Cynthia Valdes flanked by her sisters Deanna Ongpin Recto and Leni Herbosa

PR GURU Girlie Rodis, Ruthy Vera and Doris Torres of Columbia Pictures

JAP-POP girls Mikka Genito and Xandra Ramos of The Ramp

BENCH King Ben Chan and Hello Kitty Queen Virgie Ramos

Age is a state of mind

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IF 40 IS THE NEW 30, THEN what does it mean if you are turning 70? Is 70 the new 60? Or the new 50? Ultimately, it's not the number that matters but the quality of life. Living a full life with the chance to fulfill one's passion—that is indeed a life well lived at whatever age.

With her fervor for oriental ceramics, jade and other antiquities, my intellectual mother-in-law, **Cynthia Valdes**, who just turned 70, has been living out her passion, traveling far and wide to enrich her knowledge of miniature Chinese jars of the Ming and Tang (or is it Sung and Qing? I really must take notes) dynasties. She has produced several books and done many magazine articles on this topic and is currently in the midst of producing another book.

As intense as my passion is for costumes and accessories, Lola Cindy (as she is fondly called by her grandchildren) enjoys her vast collection of various ceramics, with a story to tell for each piece. If only my accessories would also appreciate in value as the years go by!

Lola Cindy invited her classmates from Holy Spirit, who were delighted to spend an evening with long-time friends. They are a remarkable group of elegant ladies, including **Eleanor Esteban** who runs the Esteban International School.

> Ultimately, it's not the number that matters but the quality of life that we live

Since our family cook has been taking cooking lessons with INQUIRER's food expert, **Reggie Aspiras** (call 6335162 or 9289296 for ongoing classes), the guests enjoyed a delicious spread of Spanish dishes with Oriental décor. I had originally planned a Chinese-themed party but the Chinese cooking lessons are still next week.

Other guests included Lola Cindy's quite artistic sisters. **Leni Ongpin Herbosa** is a realist painter whose daughter, **Mia**, is an excellent painter living in New York. In between paintings, Auntie Leni also does a killer miniature *ensaymada*. **Deanna Ongpin Recto**, aside from being a director at Alliance Française, is a curator of several art shows.

The latest show she curated is the ongoing "Filipinas" Photo Exhibit at the CCP. Photographed by non-practicing doctor **Isa Lorenzo**, the book is a collection of intimate portraits of 30 distinguished women who represent the arts, education, social work, civil society and politics. Without elaborate costumes or frivolous props, the arresting black-and-white photographs are reminiscent of studio photography of the 1940s and '50s.

"Filipinas" opened with a thanksgiving chant by ethnic soul singer **Grace Nono**. The evening's host, **Che Che Lazaro**, introduced the cast of "Filipinas," chosen for their personality, achievements and the influence they exerted on their times. This visual art presentation at the CCP Main Building is open and free for public viewing until mid-March, so do catch it.

REGGIE Aspiras

SINGING neighbor Armida Siguion-Reyna

Exotic world

If the photographs captured the strong and timeless Filipina with a humanity that vividly transcended history and legacy, the movie "Memoirs of a Geisha" illuminates the life of classical geisha and other Japanese women in a mysterious and exotic world. The movie inspired me to explore Japanese-inspired costumes, incorporating the technical fine points in the ritual of donning a kimono.

Last week, Columbia Pictures and Urban Spa invited an intimate set of media and close friends to a special private screening of "Memoirs" at the Columbia Private Theater at the 5th floor Shang Mall, next to Urban Spa. The movie starts showing Wednesday.

As the host, I came in a stunning, robin's-egg-blue kimono designed by new Cebuano designer **Ronald Villavelez**, who is also a contributing writer of Cebu Daily News. As usual, I was late so I had to breeze through the pre-movie affairs. I felt like **Oprah** as I distributed the book by **Arthur Golden** to all the guests, generously donated by **Gabby Licauco** of PowerBooks.

At the cocktails, four kimono-stylized creations by talented designers of The Ramp of Crossings Store were displayed, all arranged by **Xandra Ramos.**

Xandra is one of the young, energetic grandchildren of NBS founder **Socorro Ramos**, a newly minted Kellogg MBA holder, and the force behind this new fashion destination for hip, cool outfits.

Guests feasted on the yummy food from Tokyo Tokyo in between having express massages at Urban Spa (tel. no. 6876195). We also gave away Geisha Pampering Scrub to all guests.

As an added Japanese touch, Hello Kitty prizes and Shu Uemura products were given to guests with the best origami creations. Instead of the usual popcorn, I prepared oriental snacks like seaweed-wrapped crackers and peanuts.

New incarnation

Staying on Oriental mode, let me briefly mention the new incarnation of Wasabi restaurant (beside Peninsula Manila) into the new Wasabi Hawker. Owner **Philip Ng** has started to introduce Singaporean dishes like a super Hainanese Chicken Rice that our kids just love.

Recently, I have been so fascinated by the Chinese four pillars charts, that I downloaded the charts of my family and friends from the website of feng shui expert **Lillian Too** (www.wofs.com). Since I am no expert in this Chinese tradition, I asked World of Feng Shui owner **Maritess Allen** to explain the different elements, ruling stars and astrological animals that affect all of us.

I gave magical blessings to my friends born in the first two months of the year while Maritess gave the authentic readings. Included among the celebrators is my 8-year-old **Annika**, whose birthday last year was on the same day as the helicopter crash of my hubby **Dennis** in India.

Whatever is written in the stars, now that we are marking the first anniversary of that crash, I am even more grateful for every day and for all the family and friends I have, starting with my 9-month-old **Athena**.

The individual journeys we take here on earth, regardless of the length of time we are here, should be undertaken with a passion for every step that we fortunately are able to take.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

COLLEGE of Holy Spirit HS '52 (sitting) Tita Calalang, Pacita de Guzman, Cynthia Valdes, Naty Catolico, Ellie Esteban and Linda Flores; (standing) Amy Paterno, Guadalupe So, Bessie Buencamino, Tessie Tanjuatco, Lucy Cepeda and Mary Gomez

MSGR. Manny Gabriel (center) with heli crash survivors Anton Lacson, Dennis Valdes (holding daughter Athena), Brian Ng and Arnel Sundiam

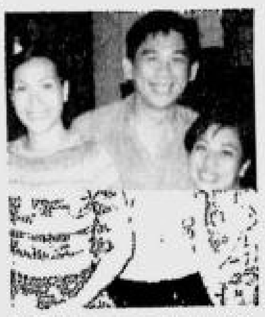
SILVER Lens photographer Isa Lorenzo between Annie Sarthou and artist Bencab

SHU UEMURA head Tina Tinio, Bo Ros, Rhoda Campos and Tessa Dragon

URBAN Spa guests Malu Gamboa, Leah Puyat, Leica Carpo, Anton Barretto and owner Irene Ibañez

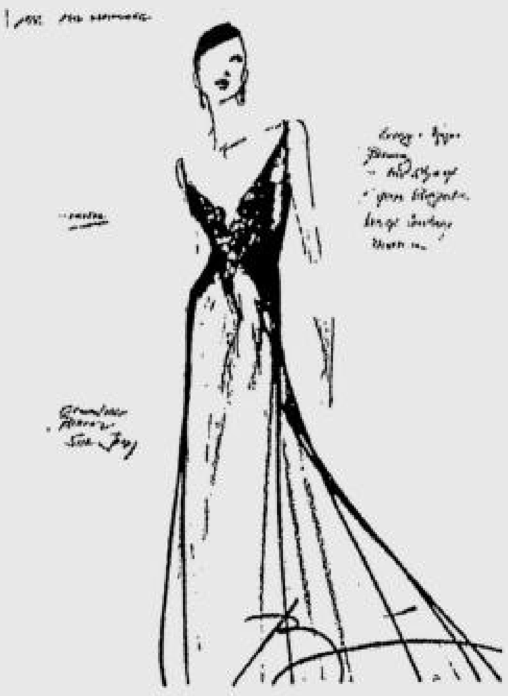
'FILIPINAS' ladies Santanina Rasul, Helena Benitez, Virginia de Guia and Leonora San Agustin

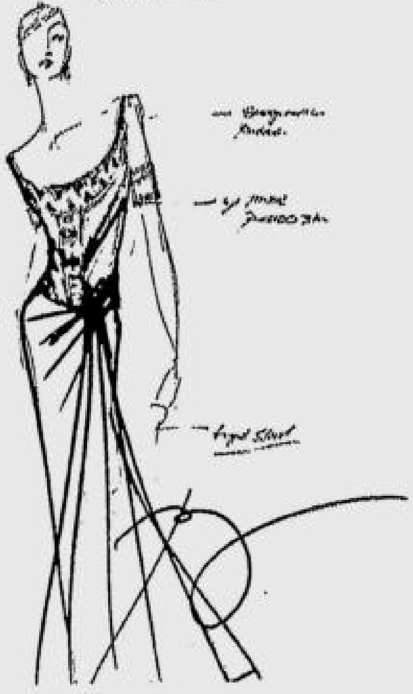
AMANDA Carpo

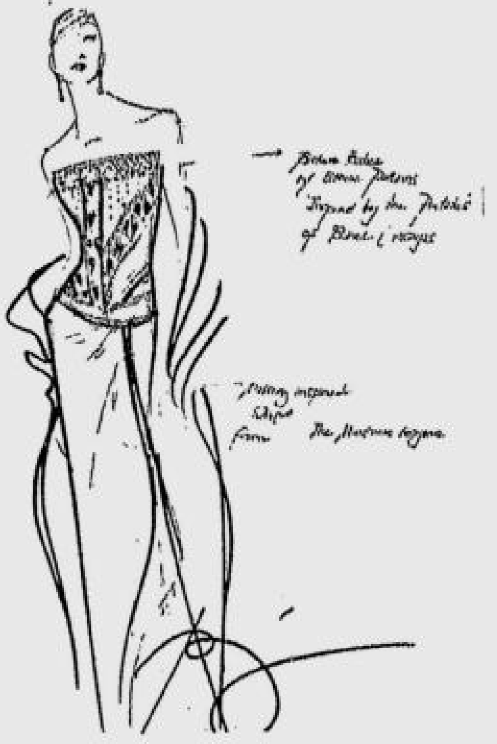

TINA Ocampo, Gerry Se and Malu Gamboa

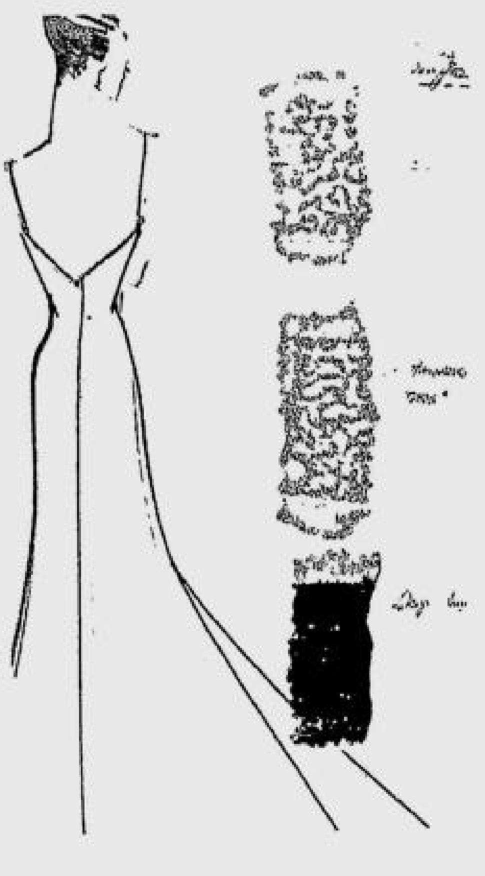
Rajo Laurel gown goes to the Oscars

The first Filipino-American woman to receive an Oscar nomination will be wearing a gown designed by Rajo Laurel. Pia Clemente has been nominated with writer-director Rob Pearlstein in the Best Short Film, Live Action category for their work on "Our Time is Up," a comedy featuring Kevin Pollack. Laurel has submitted these sketches for her to choose from.


THE DESIGNS will definitely hide the "bulges" in the tummy area, but, in keeping with Clemente's wishes, won't be "too busy..."




...The first two designs are quite similar in terms of cut. They are both made up of a corset and skirt, with the Pintados design...


...Laurel has also proposed two kinds of fabric. The first is silk jersey in *gumamela* color and the other deep *pandan*. The other fabric is a fully beaded chiffon fabric, with three colors to choose from: pink (*gumamela*), light turquoise (*tubig*) and deep plum (*talong*).

Torn between wife and mistress

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I met Rose in a *carinderia* she was managing two years ago. She was 27. I invited her out and we hit it off right away. She is the most caring and loving person I've met. The problem is, I am a happily married man with two kids.

I am not a dirty old man in pursuit of younger women. I am a young professional in my early 30s with a promising career in the private sector. Somehow she already knew my status. I did not hide anything from her because I wanted to be true to myself. Then we fell deeply in love.

I am happiest with her because I feel so loved and cared for. We laugh and play around like kids with nothing to worry about. She watches me as I sleep. She holds my hand in public though I'm afraid someone I know might see us. She said she'd never leave me and never take me away from my family. All she wants, she said, was for me to let her love me. I've had other affairs but this one is different. I am truly in love with this person.

My wife of eight years knows about the affair. She has met Rose and are civil to each other. They even text each other inspirational messages. It was an arrangement made in heaven, but I could see my wife hurting. We started arguing about petty things and our discussions would always end with her. She resented my philandering ways. She hated the girl.

I love my wife and my family. I'd never give them up. So I decided to end my relationship with Rose. She was devastated. I told her to move on with her life as she is young and has a bright future. She has suitors who are single and wealthy who can give her the security and the commitment I cannot give. I told her to consider them because she does not have any future with me. She said she is happy with me and that she would never leave me or give me up. She said that all she wants is to be with me for the rest of her life.

I do not want to leave her, but society and law dictate that I should stop this for the sake of my family. I have ignored all her calls and text messages but she still continues to send them. She said she will wait for me no matter what. I know that in time I'd be able to move on with my life without her. That is the sane side of me writing, but the other side tells me otherwise.

HELLFIRE

What could be more flattering than being loved unequivocally by a single, charming and wonderful woman? Any man would kill for a relationship like yours.

But our culture does not permit a harem where wives coexist peacefully. Despite their exchanges of text messages, doesn't your wife hate Rose already? What is happening is like water torture for all. You know, drops of water boring a hole on a stone?

How can you say you're happily married when you're having an affair?

And it seems you've already made a choice, just comparing the two women in your mind. One makes you feel like a kid—happy, devil-may-care. How does the other one—your wife—make you feel like? A married man heavy with responsibilities? Boring, and old, and not at all exciting?

You say you cannot leave your wife and family, yet, you are already hurting inside, and pining, and feeling miserable for leaving the other woman. Soon, you will look at your wife and miss the excitement you left behind. Soon you'll regret leaving Rose. Soon, you will start picking on the little itty-bitty irritating things your wife makes which you used to ignore.

How long before you start hating this wife secretly at first, and then later in the open? Can't you see how that will all make your lives miserable—yours, hers and the kids? Will it be on the first year of not seeing the other woman? The first week? When indeed?

The heart is a complex master. We say one thing just to conform to what society dictates, but feel another. When wagging tongues go to bed and you're left alone with your heart, that's when your struggle begins.

If you can honestly move on and promise yourself that you are indeed blessed having this wife and family and charge this Rose episode into a fantasy of a fast-disappearing youth—well and good. Bravo.

If you hang on to the memory of Rose but continue to stay only with your family for appearances' sake—then, think again. There are no two ways about it.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," Monday to Friday from 7:15-8:30 p.m. on dwBR 104.3 FM*

How can you say you're happily married when you're having an affair?

The Pope wears Prada

From page C1

awards. It is also touted to be a heavy favorite for best picture in the Oscar Awards. The movie has likewise been controversial. Because of the "gay cowboy" theme, it has been banned in some US states and has been the subject of jokes in late-night shows.

My favorite was from Jay Leno when he said (paraphrasing), "The sheep were the happiest when they saw the cowboys at it. Better each other than them."

The weirdest dish on earth. In the latest GQ magazine with Heath Ledger on the cover, food critic and columnist Alan Richman searches the globe for the strangest and most loved meals. From Ecuador—guinea pig; Szechuan, China—beef penis; Korea—chicken ass; Italian-American—pig foot, etc. Of course, the Philippines has to be there with our much loved and reviled *balut*.

In the article, Richman, along with a Filipino friend, went to a popular Filipino restaurant in Manhattan called Elvie's Turo Turo. (I've actually been there once when I needed a quick fix of Filipino food—the food is pure home cooking. What it lacks in ambience is made up for in taste and Filipino charm.)

This is his experience: "As I ate, juice ran down my arm and over my pen. I tossed the pen. I didn't know what to do with the arm… In the Philippines, *balut* is a snack food. To some, it's an aphrodisiac. To me, it's tradition run amok, possibly the weirdest dish on earth."

Gratefulness and commitments. You are reading a milestone—this is the 300th TNT article. This column started in 2001 with the premise of bringing you the latest in fashion, lifestyle as well as exclusive interviews and you heard-it-here-first items. Thank you for your e-mails, patronage and encouragement. Here's hoping for your continued support. I reaffirm my commitment to bring you the best and brightest in this great and beautiful world we live in!

E-mail antonsd@philtatler.com

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

IT'S IN THERE!

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10 Lend a hand
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111 Divisions of history
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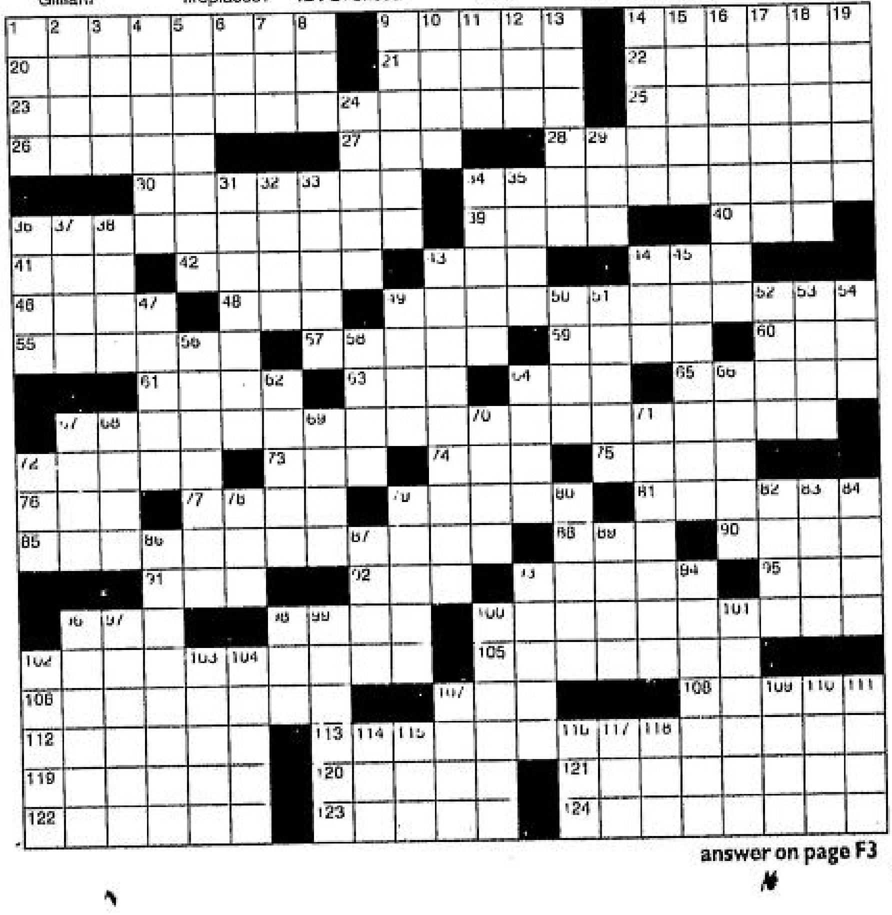

answer on page F3

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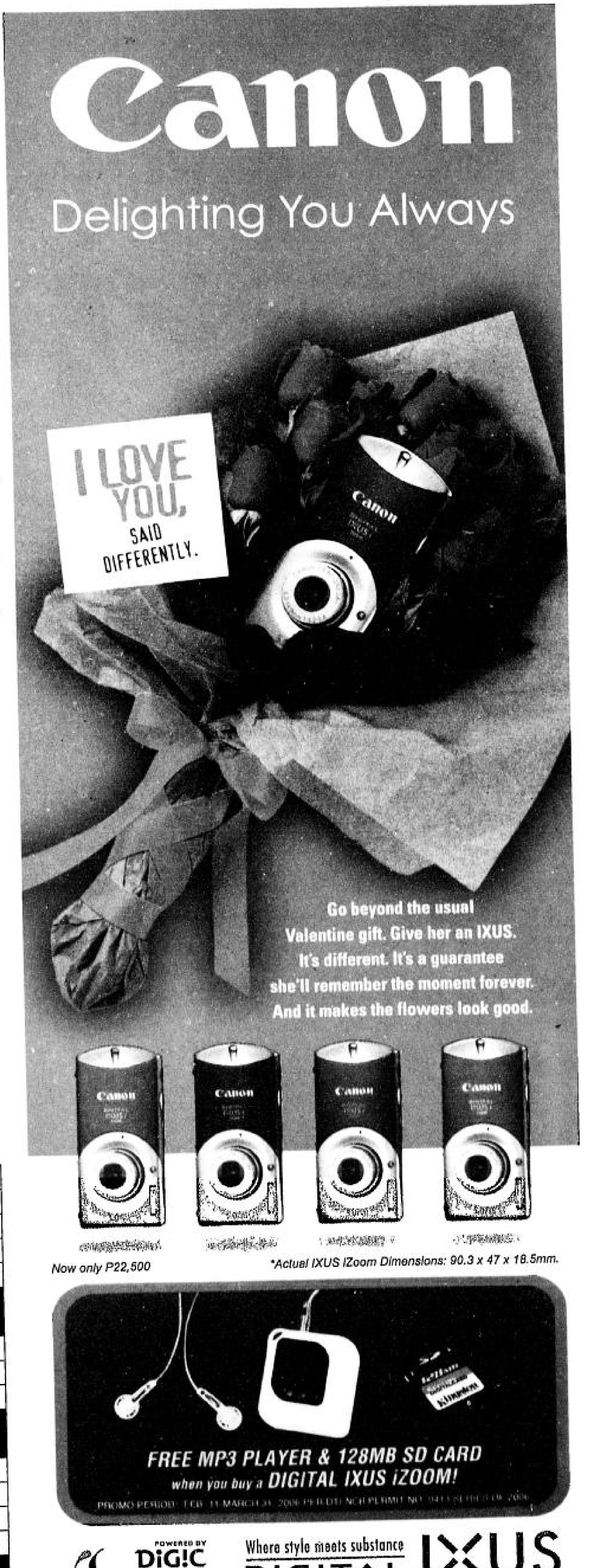

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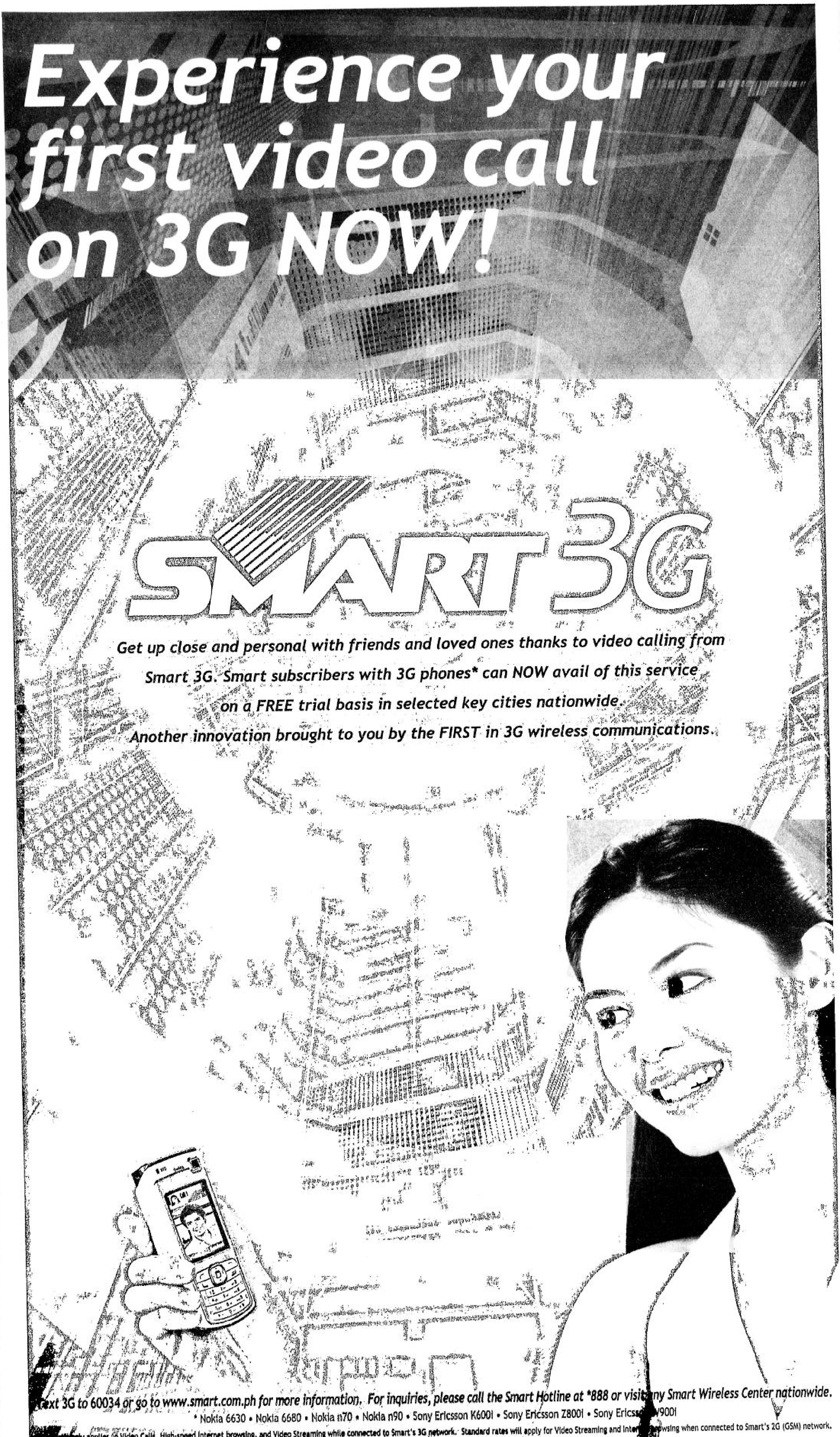

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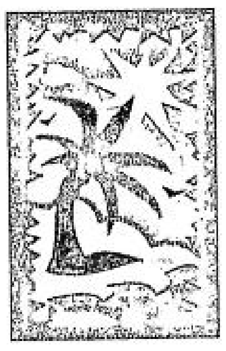
Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

More 'Best of Boracay' winners

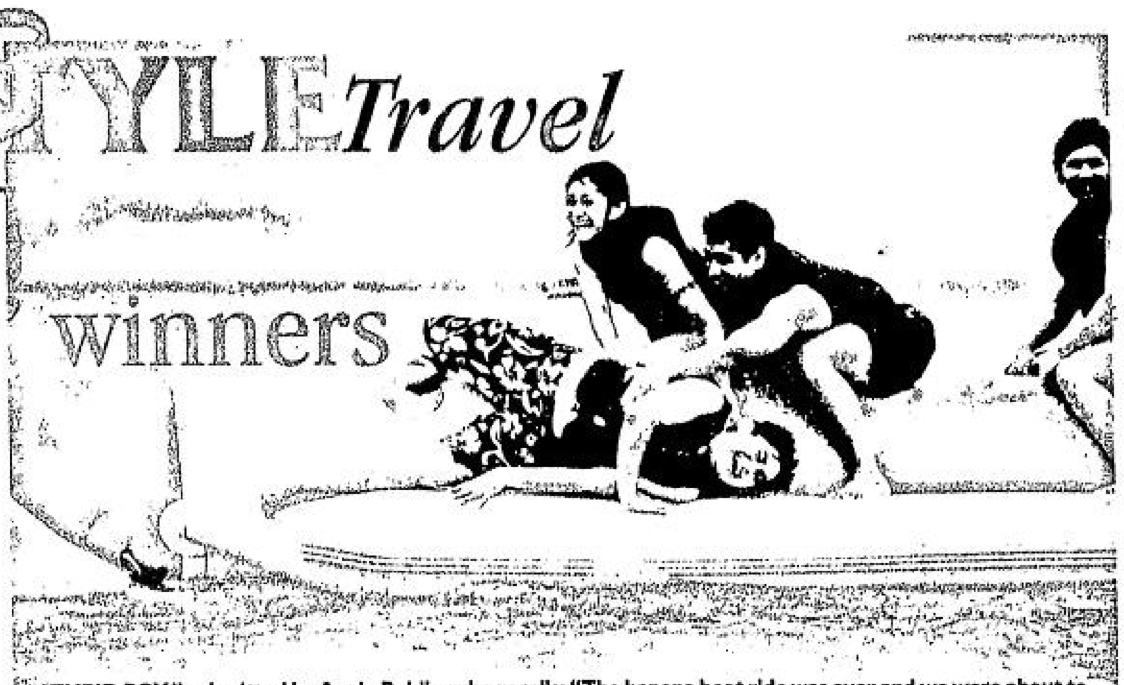
BANANA BOATS and Boracay go together like love and marriage, so no Boracay photo contest can be complete without a photo of the banana boat experience.



No wonder that included in this batch of winners is the photo submitted by Annie Beldia of a banana boat that almost threw one boy overboard. Our other picks were submitted by Teresa Pison of Pasig City, Jannet Ngo of Sydney, Australia, and Christopher John R. Batan of Las Piñas.

The four winners join the finalists for the top three prizes. They may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Soriaga).

MORE/ D3



"STUPID POY," submitted by Annie Beldia, who recalls: "The banana boat ride was over and we were about to dock when the speedboat jerked a bit, then my brother, Poy-Poy, fell from the banana boat in super slow motion. He hung there for about two minutes until he realized that the water wasn't that deep, so he jumped off."

Ain't Love Grand at CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006

In the tradition of celebrating love and romance, CloseUp once again brought couples and lovers together for a night of grand expressions of love and the thrill of a midnight kiss last February 11, 2006 at Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. In keeping with the CloseUp Lovapalooza tradition of celebrating love with a kiss, three other simultaneous Valentine celebrations were held, across the country: Bayanihan Park at the MacArthur highway in Angeles; the FGU Ayala Business Park in Cebu; and the Matina Town Square in Davao.

Celebrity couples, such as Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz, Borgy Manotoc and Ornussa Cadness, Iya Villania and Drew Arellano hosted the event in Baywalk, featuring the live performances of heartthrob Sam Milby, who sang the latest CloseUp love song "Close To You", theme song of the first CloseUp Movie with the same title. In the other venues, Davao was hosted by Bianca King, James Blanco & Danica Sotto; Angeles was hosted by Cheska Garcia & Doug Kramer, Maikee Evers, Will Devaughn and Juddha Paolo and Cebu was hosted by: Luis Manzano, Nancy Castiglione, Marco Alcaraz, Vince Canizares and Camille Pratts.

A roster of artists serenaded the crowd with live performances of the most popular love songs as couples got ready to express their love with a kiss at the stroke of midnight. From balladeers to live bands all over the country-In Manila: Paolo Santos, Brownman Revival, South Border, Hale, Bamboo, Barbie Almalbis; Davao: Jimmy Bondoc, Rivermaya and Sugarfree; Angeles: Kitchie Nadal, Cueshe, Sandwich and Cebu- Parokya ni Edgar, Freestyle and Itchyworms- the best names from the music industry kept the romance on high all night.

Love gave everyone a natural high and couples got even more excited as Manila Mayor Lito Atienza led the countdown to midnight onstage. And at the stroke of midnight, amid a jaw-dropping display of fireworks and the romantic strains of "What the World Needs Now is Love," couples all across the country expressed their love through a romantic midnight kiss.

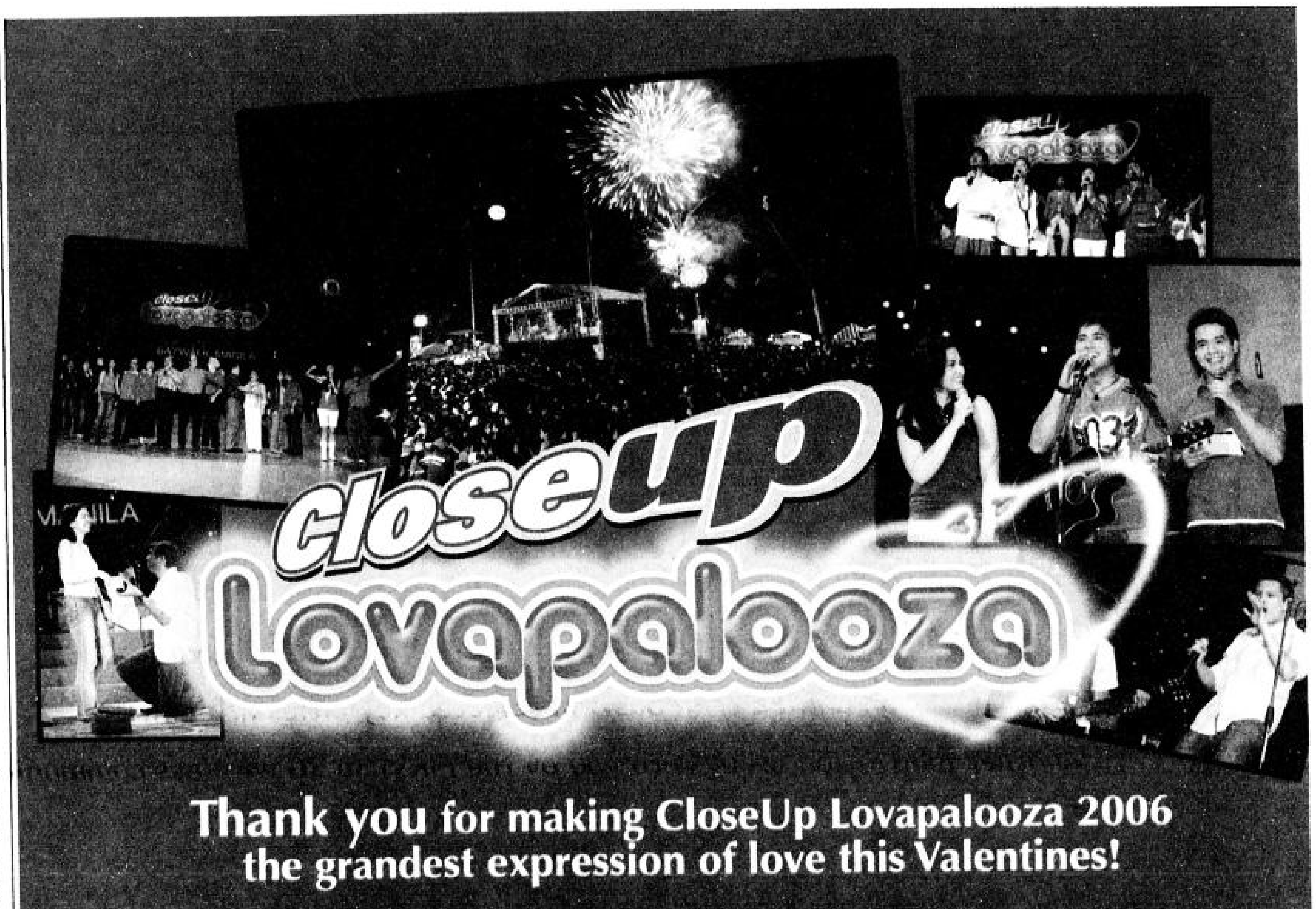
Also starring that night were the couples who made CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006 the stage for their own grand expressions of love. And in Baywalk, love, in its many phases, was shared and celebrated through two couples who claimed Lovapalooza as their own special Valentine event.

Married already for almost three years, Ebner and Christine Detablan share how significant the CloseUp Lovapalooza celebration is in their lives. "The first Lovapalooza was actually our first Valentine's date," Ebner. Indeed, with this Valentine celebration growing bigger and grander every year, the couple counts along the years of their own love story. And for the CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006, they chose to express their love in front of the multitudes of couples gathered in the event. "I have to say going up the stage and telling each other how much we love each other is our grandest expression of love," Christine states, recounting how her special message to her husband moved her and the audience to tears.

From reminiscing and celebrating, it was a new beginning for the second couple who went onstage for their own grand expressions of love. Anton Ng, who has been with his girlfriend, Sierra Basmayor, for two years, wowed the crowd and his significant other, as well, when he got down on his knees and proposed to Sierra onstage. The crowd cheered on as Sierra said her yes to Anton's romantic proposal. Backstage, still giddy with excitement over the surprise proposal, Sierra reveals, "I didn't really intend to go to Lovapalooza tonight' Sabi lang ng friend ko na may 'big announcement' siyang gagawin that's why Anton and I went. Hindi ko alam may pinaplano pala si Anton for me!" For his part, Anton shares why he chose Lovapalooza as the venue for his grand proposal-and how he kept such a big secret from his now-fiancée. "Not a lot of people are given the opportunity to express love this way. Sharing a special occasion like this with a lot of people is a unique experience, that's why I thought, 'Why not propose to her here?'" he shares. "Kaunti lang talaga 'yung nakakaalam, and even most of her friends and her family didn't know until this morning." "Yes, it was very unexpected," Sierra admits. "Wala talaga akong idea. But the unexpectedness made it really special. Seldom can anyone experience this!"

CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006 was produced by CloseUp and Apogee Production, Inc.

ADVT



Thank you for making CloseUp Lovapalooza 2006 the grandest expression of love this Valentines!

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- Mr. Dino Nable, City Administrator
- Police Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon
- Police Director General Vidal Quirol and the NCR-PO team
- Police Chief Superintendent Pedro Bulaong, Manila Police District and Special Operations Group
- Col. Roberto dela Rosa and the Western Traffic Enforcement Group
- Mr. Arles Jimenez and Manila Tourism & Cultural Affairs Bureau
- Engr. Che Borromeo and the Department of Public Services
- Engr. Armand Andres and the City Engineers Office
- Manila Health Department
- Manila Fire Deparment
- Mr. Noli Mendoza and the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau
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- City General Services Office - Events Management Volunteers from the Office of the City Mayor
- Dr. Marge Leachon and Unilever/AHCSI "Medical Team"
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- Ethel W. Galang and Angeles City Tourism Office
- Atty. Noel C. Flores, Brgy.Captain and the Balibago Barangay Council
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- Dr. Froilan Cruz and the Ospital ng Angeles
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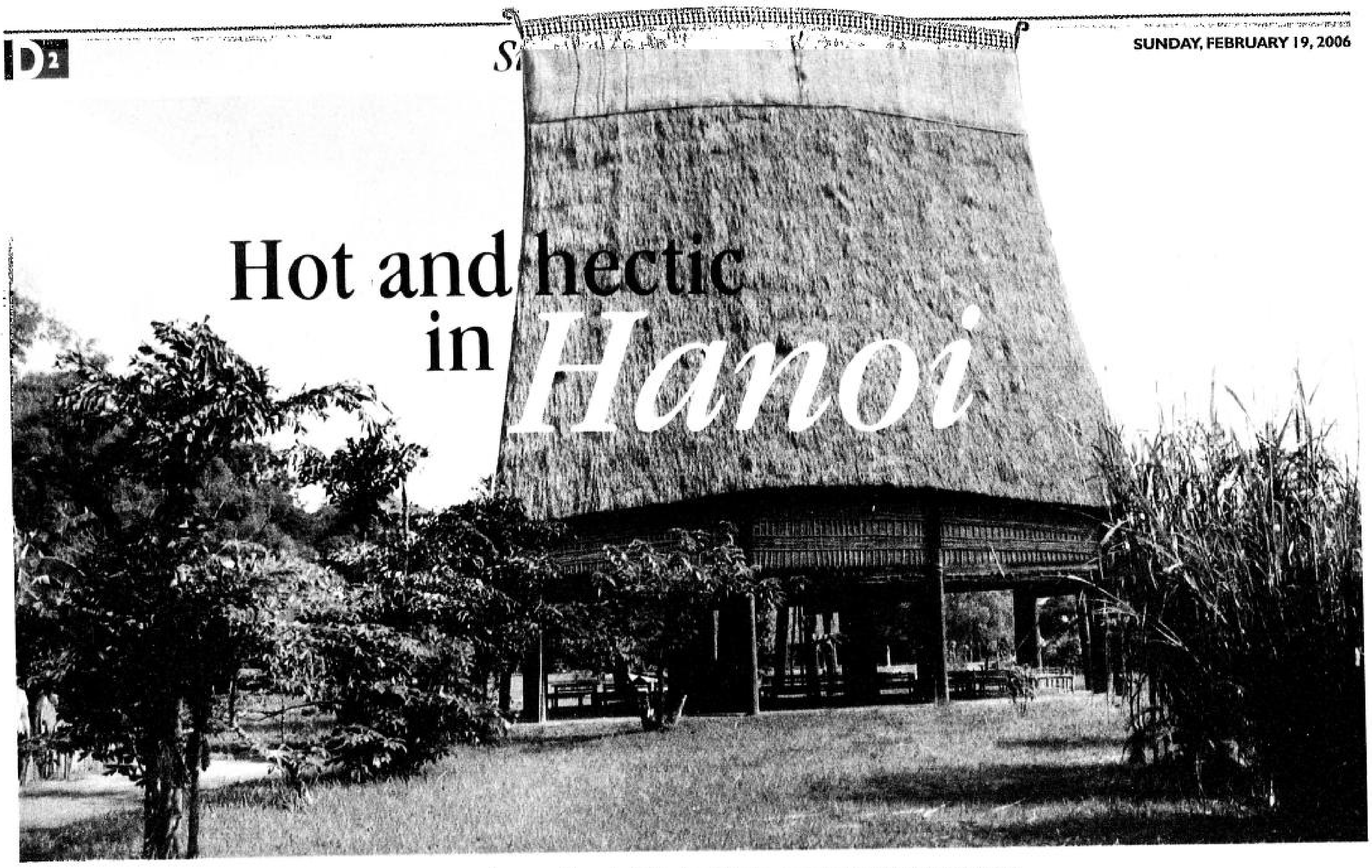
Albert Almendralejo, Beng Reyes Ong and Apogee Production Inc. • JP Chiongbian & Dennis Cañete of ESC Director Vincent Dybuncio • Vernon Go and Pulp Magazine • Robby Carmona and Saga Events • Gatchi Gatchalian and G&G Events • Ginggay dela Merced and Visions & Expressions • Other TV, radio hosts and print media partners

And especially to the thousands of Filipinos who once again made this traditional Valentine celebration a success this year by expressing their love with a Kiss!

Hot and hectic in Hanoi



NATIVE hut at the Museum of Ethnology grounds

Text by Elizabeth Lolarga
Photos by Rolando B. Fernandez

For the Vietnamese, love of country is no cliché

AS THE TAG-ALONG WIFE IN a group of academics from the University of the Philippines Baguio who saved up from their overload of administrative and teaching duties for an R & R in Hanoi, Vietnam, I had little to say what places to visit.

I left the itinerary to my companions.

Breakfast for three consecutive days at the Manh Dung Guest House on the tiny street of Tam Thuong was crusty unsweetened baguettes—a vestige of French colonial days—that we lathered with butter, jam or La Vache soft white cheese. Tea was free along with unlimited use of the Internet.

In the old quarter, we were overwhelmed by the number and roar of motorbikes. Drivers hardly wore protective helmets.

The women were attractive in the traditional *ao dai* (long dress with high slits on both sides, and slim pants), the soft silk flying in the wind while the high-heeled shoe remained steady on the kick-starter.

The city had four million inhabitants and three million motorbikes. As the roads were narrow, it was easier to travel by bike than by car.

Our tour guide to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum was a former English teacher, Nguyen Van Manh, who preferred to be called Mike. He was profusely apologetic about his excruciating English.

After a head count, he uttered, "We are enough!"

WATER puppets

Revered

The queue inside the mausoleum was so orderly and solemn, the hushed reverence reaching its peak in the chilly room where Uncle Ho's bier lay, spotlights focused on his waxy face and hands. A white-uniformed guard stood at each corner.

The museum had an exhibit on the life of feudal lords and imperialists, with their elaborate chairs, valuable blue and white vases and finely carved screens.

In contrast, Vietnamese peasants had little more than a mat on the floor.

Not too far from the museum is the One Pillar Pagoda. As Manh tells it, King Lyconguan had no son. The king dreamed that the Quan Am (who brought Buddhism to Vietnam) handed him a son. A real son weighing six kilos was given to the king who then married a fairy. Quan Am appeared on a lotus so the pagoda was shaped like the flower. Behind it is a bodhi tree, India's gift to Ho.

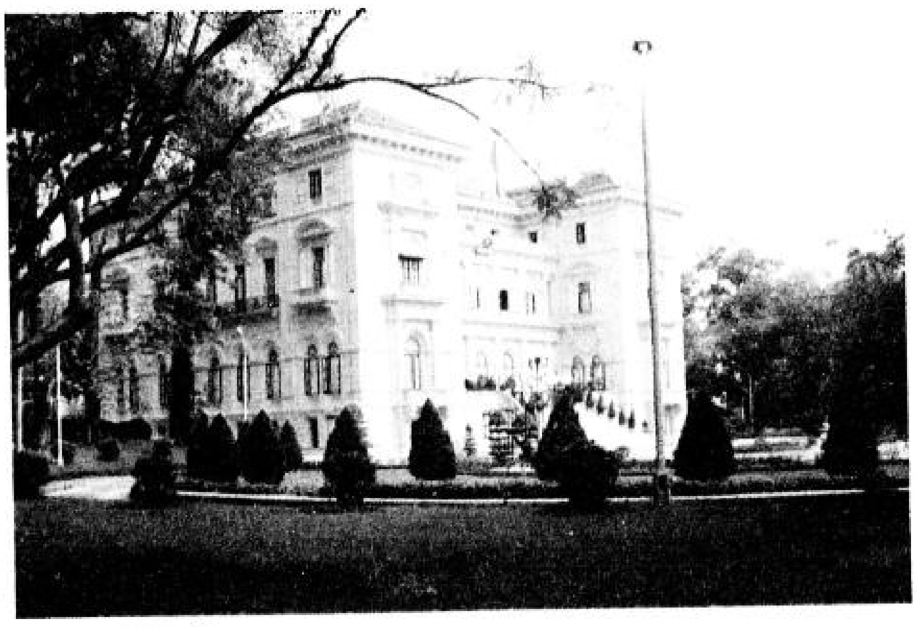
Van Mieu (The Temple of Literature) is a must-stop for our group of professors. Began in 1076, students there studied literature and wrote poetry. The names of those who passed the national exams, where the king would pose a question, are carved on steles or tablets on the backs of turtles.

We are treated to a cultural program. Traditional Vietnamese instruments play river delta music from Bac Ninh province.

At the Museum of Ethnology, we admire the brocade cloth from the Tai Dam ethnic group, the ritual pole of the Co people, the headdresses of the Thai people of the northwest, the steps to indigo dyeing, the gongs similar to the ones in Mindanao, the weaving of Muong women, among others.

I am awed by a Tay funeral house. It is believed that the soul of the dead crosses rivers and oceans before reaching the Mount of Flowers. Birds help the soul go to paradise so ritual colorful papers in the shape of suns and swallows are made for good luck.

At the Ngoc Son Temple at Hoan Kiem Lake, I try to figure out a legend from the 15th century. The leader Le Loi was said to defeat the Mongol invaders by putting a wooden sword in the river in the late afternoon. The water miraculously dropped, entrapping the enemies. Inside the temple are two gold-painted wooden peacocks.



PRESIDENTIAL palace

Lenin statue

On the way to Bat Trang, a pottery village, our van whizzes past Lenin Park, a patch of triangular green with the heroic statue of the founder of the Soviet state.

At Bat Trang, we look at an army of unfinished, still unfired owl ceramics and a variety of articles at Minh Hai Ceramics.

At Dong Ho we see where the folk pictures are made. They are called paintings when actually they are woodcuts. The subjects hardly change: flute playing, coconut catching, cocks for great luck, mice wedding, a toad giving lessons, a pig, kite flying and a mother fish with her babies. The village is recognized by the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) for its precious national heritage.

Evening finds us enjoying like children the Tha Long Water Puppets. The puppets perform in a pool of water, representing flooded rice paddies in the olden times when farmers amused themselves this way.

Enchanting is the music played in the background using bamboo flute, drums, 16- or 36-stringed zither, a monochord, percussions and vocalists.

Restored

The third day we come upon the elegant Hanoi Opera House, built in 1911 and recently restored. There is a small mall selling Balenciaga and Pierre Cardin haute couture.

At Trang Tien Street stands the National Museum of Vietnamese History, another historic building in the favorite color of ochre. There are prehistoric pottery, beads, bracelets, burial vessels, mirrors covered with the patina of age. From the civilized era come duck-shaped ewers, columns with Buddhist inscriptions, green and yellow glazed ceramic, human heads in terra cotta, an oil lamp in the shape of a parrot, paving tiles with chrysanthemum décor, a mural of the Bach Dung naval battle when the Vietnamese defeated the Mongolian invaders. The characters for "long life" are written in 100 ways in an embroidery from the Nguyen Dynasty.

At the Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, with only 30 minutes to explore, my companion and I head for the lacquer and other paintings extolling the bravery of Vietnamese soldiers and people during the time of war. It is worth the rush to grasp as much as we can of a people for whom love of country is no cliché.

Night of heroes

GLOBEQUEST PAID TRIBUTE TO everyday heroes during the recent GlobeQuest Appreciation Night where values that GlobeQuest seeks to promote were highlighted, such as integrity, honesty, courage, commitment, compassion, sense of justice, loyalty, and a serving heart.

Plaques were presented to heroes in the corporate world, companies and organizations that strove to make a difference.

Honored during the GlobeQuest We Can Be Heroes Appreciation Night were the Department of Trade and Industry for promoting the Philippines as an investment and outsourcing destination; the Philippine Retailers Association, represented by Mars Chua and Evelyn Salitenes, president and secretary general, respectively, for its tireless work in improving the retail industry; Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), represented by Bobby Reyes, CIO of Amkor Anam, and Ernie Santiago, executive director of Seipi; Business Processing Association of the Philippines, represented by Mitch Locsin, executive director, and Dan Reyes, president, for significant contributions to developing the Philippines as an outsourcing solution; and Bureau of Investments, represented by Celeste Ilagan, executive director, and Jeanette Carillo, brand manager for IT.

Guests were welcomed by the Centex Children's Choir. Juliana Palermo, looking like a Greek goddess, hosted the event.

GlobeQuest CEO Gil Genio welcomed over a thousand guests.

Performers included a live band and celebrities like Jed Madela, grand champion of the World Talent Olympics, who demonstrated his winning form. Zsa Zsa Padilla performed classics, with everyone singing along.

The energy level rose a notch when Dance Sport treated the audience to hot Latin numbers and standard dances that won medals for the Philippines in the last Southeast Asian Games.

Palermo, who changed into a Supergirl outfit, announced the lucky raffle winners who got to take home various electronic gadgets from iPods to a 52-inch flat screen television.

GlobeQuest executives then gave recognition to industry leaders who had given so much to the community.

After the last of raffle winners were announced and GlobeQuest's Jesus Romero had formally closed the program, the guests danced to the music of the band Traffic Jam.

RAQUEL Cagurangan, chief admin. officer, Innove; Doji Lopez, president, One Hundred Services

ARIES Sayson, head of corporate sales, Innove, poses beside "superhero" model Melissa Frye.

MAURICIO Franco, systems operation manager, Ayala Corp., with Grace Castillo, GlobeQuest marketing head

JESUS Romero, GlobeQuest head

GIL GENIO, CEO of Innove with "superheroes"

"FIRST TIMER," submitted by Teresa Pison, who in the summer of 2005, "took a long and bumpy bus ride from Iloilo to Caticlan to introduce our 3-year-old son Lucas to Boracay" and the scene "his parents keep going back for."

More 'Best of Boracay' winners

From page D1

About the contest

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200 resolution JPEG format and unaltered.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, landline phone number and e-mail address.

You may submit as many entries as you wish but you may win only once. It is important to send or e-mail each entry separately.

Where to send

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Resorts Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

What we're looking for

Criteria for judging are: 40 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact, and 30 percent quality and technique.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

What's at stake

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four night stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

Winning photos will be published in Sunday Lifestyle on April 9, 2006.

"SUNSET GOLF" submitted by Jannet Ngo, who lives in Sydney. Taken at White Beach, Boracay, after a relaxing game (and a relaxing day), this photo shows two things in Boracay that the boys had enjoyed—the natural beauty of a sunset, which you can catch every day, and the game they love to play—golf!

"SWEET Summer Relaxation," submitted by Christopher John R. Batan, was taken in May 2005 and shows seven beach buddies/bodies.

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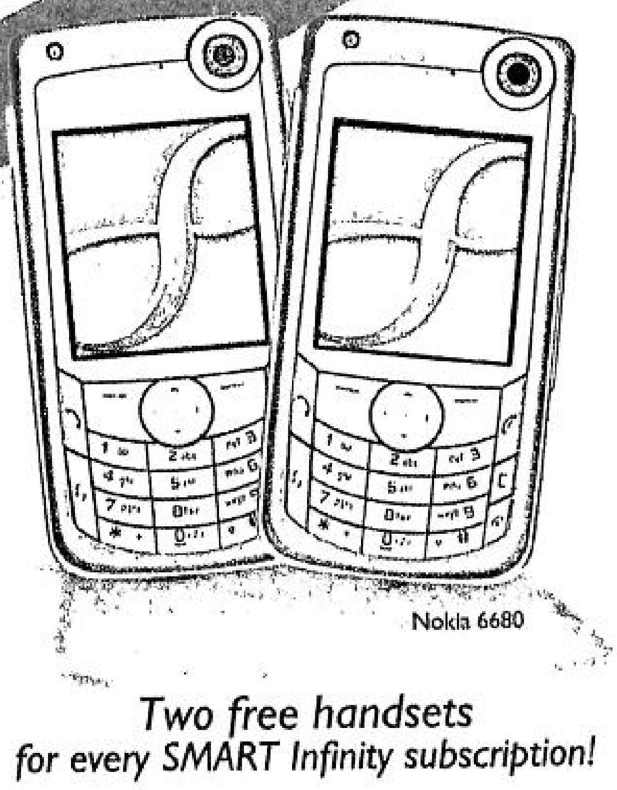

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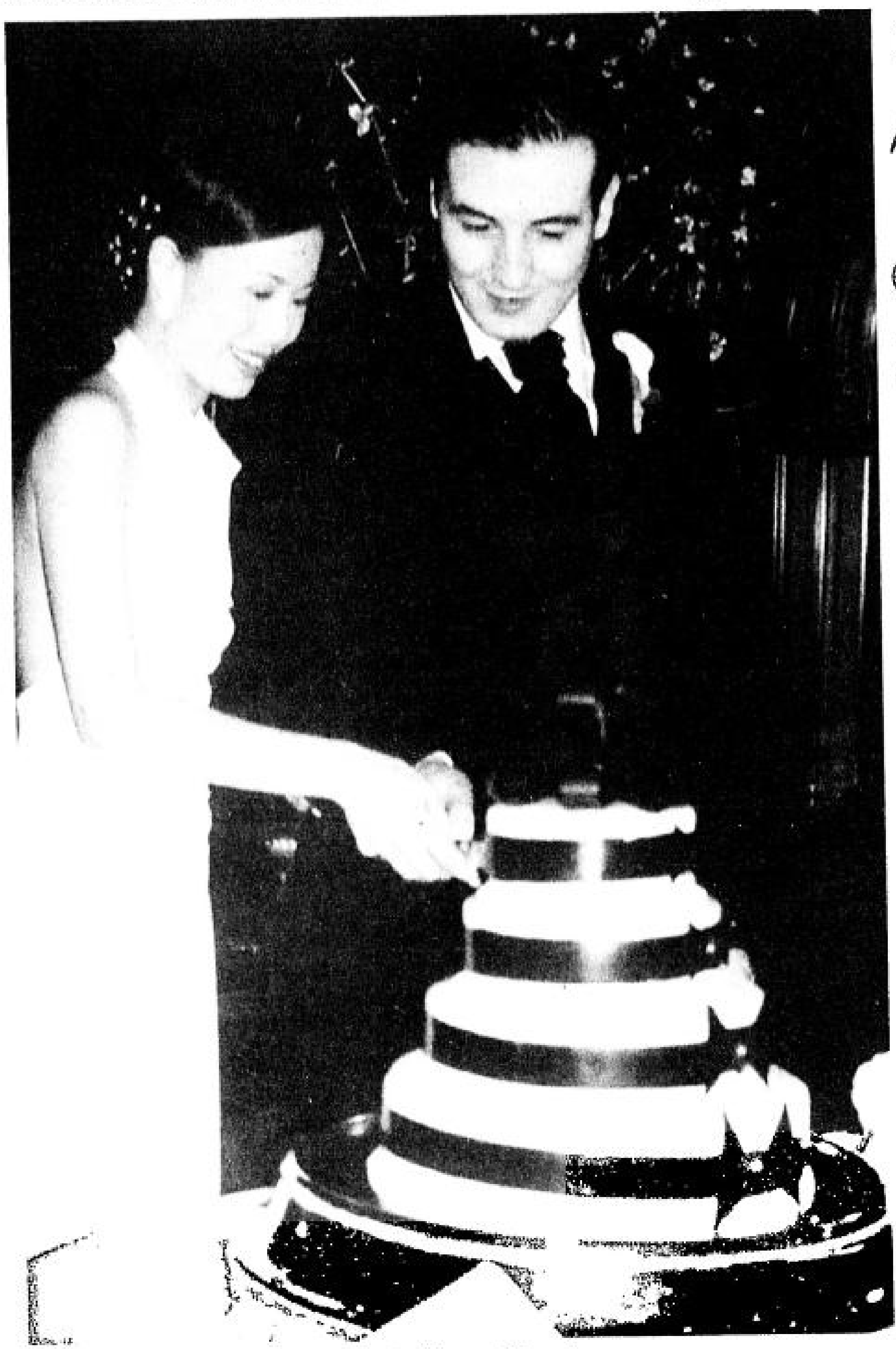
THE BEAUTIFUL couple: Mr. and Ms Alpan Keskin



THE LOVE birds, cutting their black-and-white wedding cake

KESKIN-ATILANO NUPTIAL

Pinoy beauty meets Turkish delight

It is a romance of hoteliers from two vast worlds conjoined in multicultural Manhattan

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen

TALL AND SLIM BEAUTY **Karla R. Atilano** joined New York's Swissotel The Drake as sales manager, after leaving Makati's elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Shortly after she arrived in the Big Apple, she met the debonair, princely looking and handsome Turk **Alpan Keskin,** who was also connected to The Drake, but on a different floor, *palanggas*.

Karla A. and Alpan K. bumped into each several times on the streets of Manhattan, and the latter became smitten. Alpan thought to himself, "That's the girl I'd like to marry." *Aprés* that, dahlings, it was a whirlwind romance, and on the sixth month they were engaged.

They held their wedding at one of New York's landmarks, the Gothic St. Patrick's Cathedral, and their reception at The Drake where they had first met, *natch*.

The wedding celebration was organized on short notice. Karla told *moi*, "The ensuing preparations were so hectic, with many of our guests flying in from Turkey, Los Angeles, Spain, Germany and Manila." *Naturellement*.

This wedding was a milestone for the Atilano famille because Karla's grandmother, **Helen Orosa del Rosario**, saw her first grandchild getting married. Karla's mother, **Elizabeth "Liz" Atilano**, aunts **Chic R. Francisco** and **Elaine R. Lim**, and cousins **Ria Francisco** and **Alexa Lim**, would not miss this Fil-Turkish wedding in the Big Apple, for the world, dahlings.

PINOY/ E3

THE BEAUTIFUL couple with the bride's famille: brother Enrique, father mega businessman José Atilano, attractive mother Elizabeth del Rosario A. and brother Joseph Atilano

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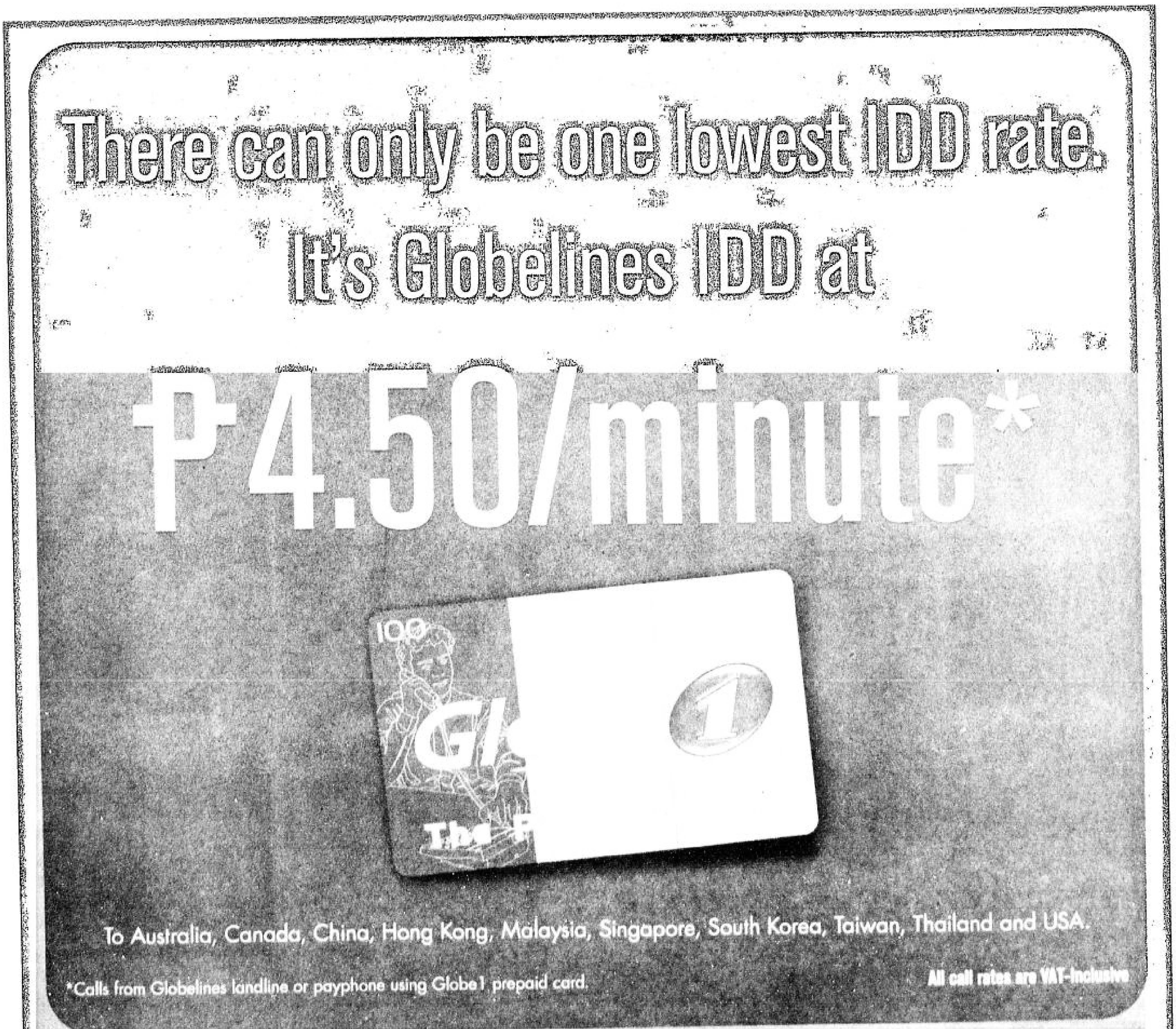

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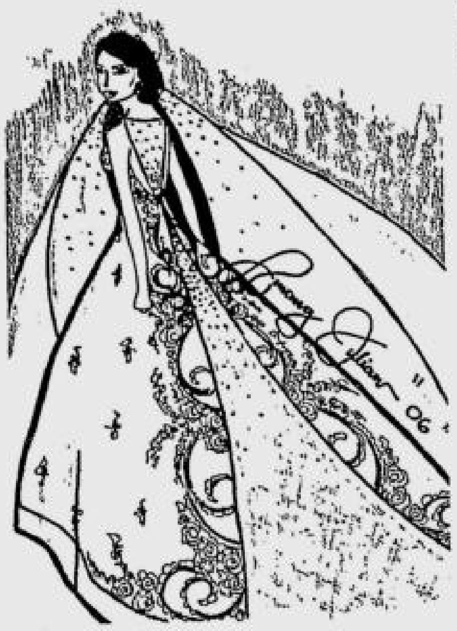
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



TOPACIO-ESGUERRA

Rodel B. Topacio, son of **Francisco** and **Patricia Topacio**, will marry **Sally C. Esguerra**, daughter of **Felix** and **Lea Esguerra**, at 10:30 a.m., March 11, at Sto. Niño de Molino Parish, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite.

The bride will wear a gown made of ivory duchess satin with fully beaded body and train, using cut and glass beads with pink accent and metallic double width illusion tulle veil, designed by **Amang Julian.**

ROSAROSO-HINLO

Jeffrey Rosaroso, son of **Blas** and **Evelyn Rosaroso**, married recently **Rosemarie Hinlo**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Sonia Hinlo**, at the Iglesia ni Cristo Church, Makati. **Tito Franco** designed the bride's gown of lamé chiffon accented with cut beads, crystals and a three-meter train.

BAYLON-TUMLOS

Bartolome T. Baylon Jr., son of **Bartolome Sr.** and **Rosalita Baylon**, married recently **Mary Jean Tumlos**, daughter of **Democrito** and **Neda Tumlos**, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Iloilo. **Rommel Constantino** of 5672 coordinated the event.

GRIMNITZ-CASTRO

Janus Grimnitz, trade manager for DFDS Transport HK, will marry **Maria Castro**, business development and marketing manager for Salotto Limited for Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing, March 11, at Punta Fuego.

DE MESA-DE VERA

Roman E. de Mesa Jr., son of **Roman** and **Pacencia de Mesa Sr.**, will exchange vows with **Margie C. de Vera**, daughter of **Manuel** and **Arsenia de Vera Sr.**, on March 5, at Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Reception will follow at Angel Gabriel's Garden, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

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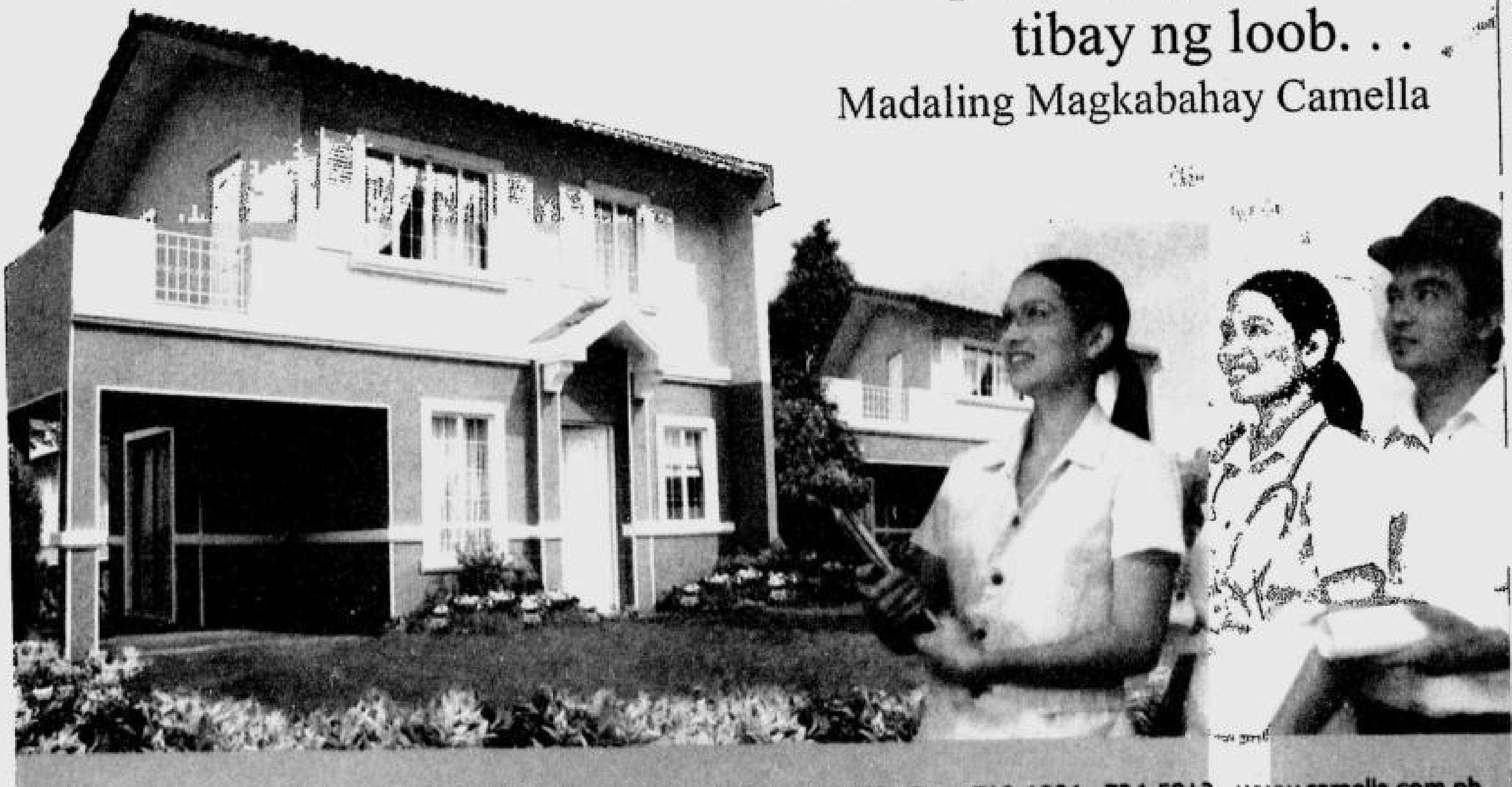

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HEY, HANDSOME. Good-looking Turkish pals of the groom: principal sponsor Ali Kili, best man Yugmur Gursoy, the groom Alpan K. and groomsmen Nurkan Arkina and Memet Yola.

THE BRIDE (center) with her gang Cristina Ortigas (maid of honor), bridesmaids Mutya Hodreal, cousin Ria Francisco and Pia Barrios

KARLS'S aunts Chic Francisco and Meme Planes, who was a principal sponsor; grandmother Helen Orosa del Rosario, and aunt Elaine Lim

Pinoy beauty meets Turkish delight

From page E1

To be different, Karla decided on a black-and-white wedding motif, which she said, "spelled elegance."

For her bridal gown, she chose Carolina Herrera, no less, and for her shoes, Vera Wang.

"Alpan, decided on a tuxedo by Dolce & Gabanna and his shoes by Prada," she said.

The talented and gifted **Dennis Lustico** of Manille executed Karla's design of the bridesmaids' gowns. The bride's mother wore a stunning creation by Dennis, who else!

The superbly prepared dinner at the grand ballroom of The Drake (which had a distinctive Turkish ambience) consisted of fillet mignon and prawns and the traditional Turkish baklava dessert.

For extras, dahlings, the couple got an exotic belly dancer who performed and had the 200 invitees applauding, whistling and asking for more, more, more! Then it was rock-and-roll time as the fun invitees hit the dance floor and shock it to intensity 9, *palanggas*, till way past 3 a.m.

As the exhausted but happy guests left, the couple handed out personalized books wrapped in black and white in keeping with the motif.

Aprés their exotic honeymoon at the gorgeous Kahala Mandarin Oriental in romantic Hawaii, the two beautiful, cool hoteliers jetted back to Manhattan where Alpan K. is now the hotshot assistant director of food and beverage at the Mandarin Oriental, which just happens to be New York's newest awesome luxury hotel.

Hey, Karla and Alpan, here's to a happy marriage! Cheers!

HAPPY threeşome: Karla, Alpan and his mother, elegant Suna Keskin

KARLA'S super pal Dimples Balaguer La'O

ALPAN'S gorgeous sister, Fegin Keskin Akbasoglu

PRETTY, pretty flower girls Deniz Akbasoglu and Keena T. Atilano in their black-and-white gowns

COIN- and ring-bearer Joaquin Balaguer La'O

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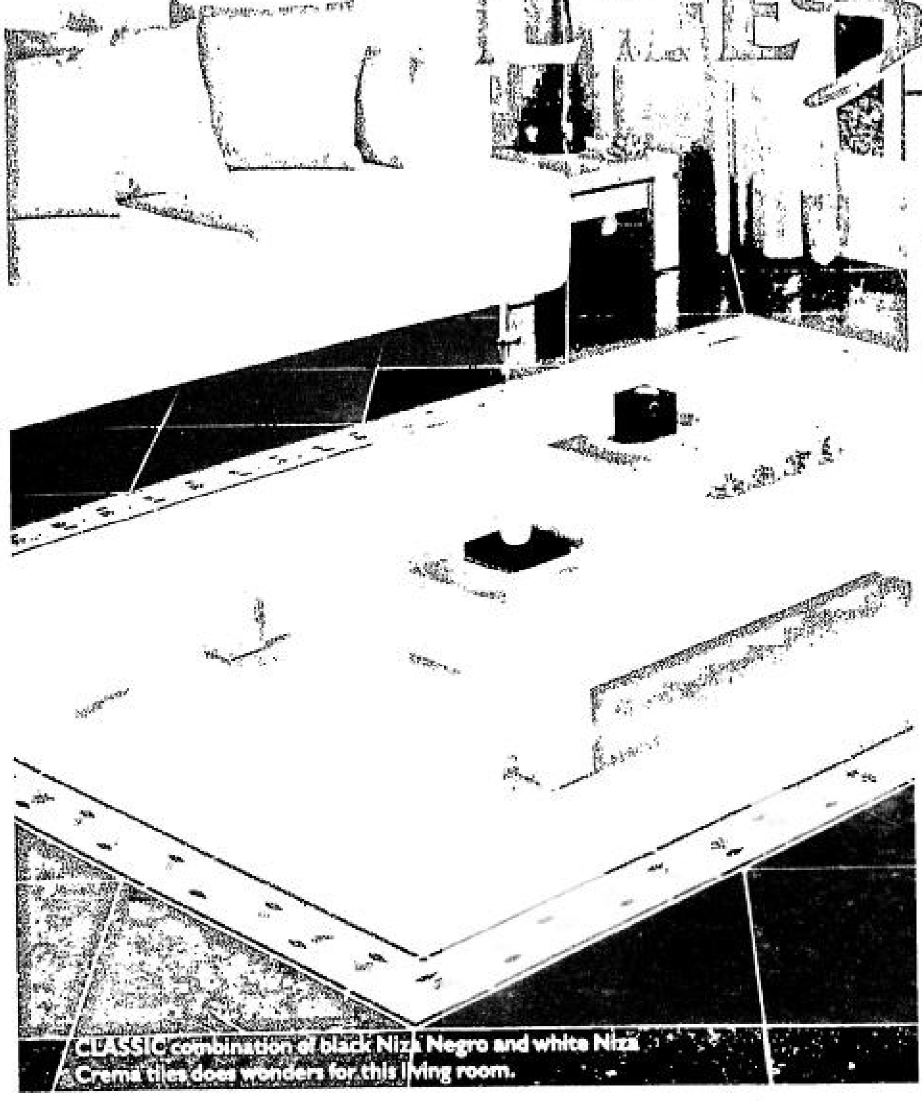
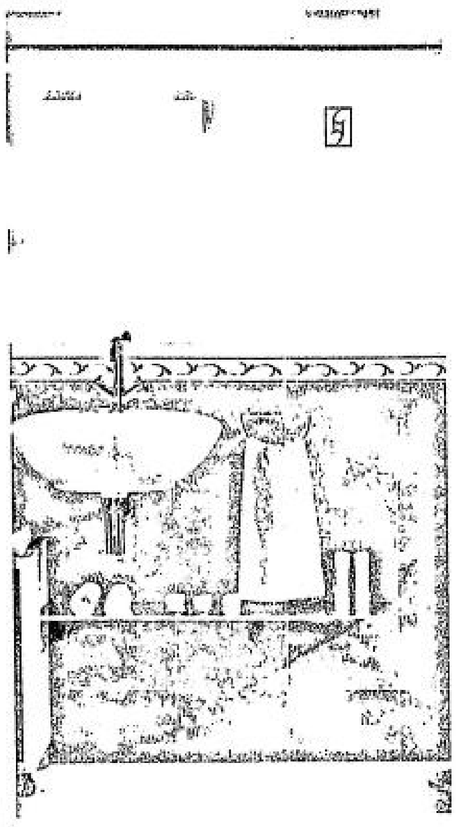


CLASSIC combination of black Niza Negro and white Niza Crema tiles does wonders for this living room.



THE RUSTIC hues of Niza Rojo tiles add spice to this bathroom.

SPANISH TILES, which are now extensively used in modern architecture, are now available in a wide variety at the Federal Design Expo.

More and more homes and buildings in Europe, America and the United Kingdom favor Spanish tiles for their interiors.

In the Philippines, too, many discriminating home owners are using Spanish tiles to enhance the elegance of their interiors.

The tiles from the Iberian Peninsula are distinctive because of the elegant blending of different influences from neighboring cultures.

ADD/ F3

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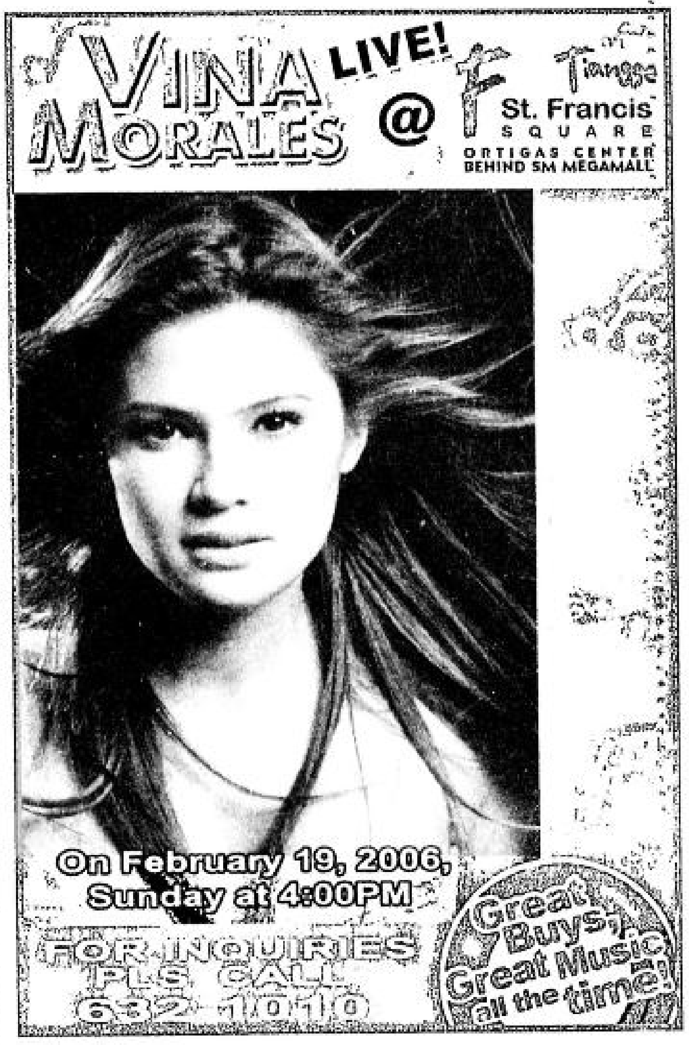

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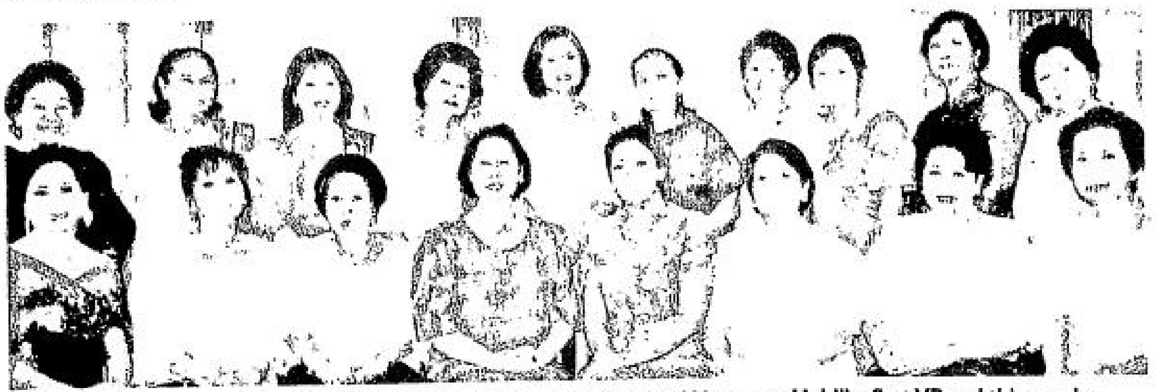


IKEBANA officers and advisers including Vangie Cheng, president, and Nonnette Hubilla, first VP and this year's exhibit co-chair (seated, fourth and fifth from left, respectively)

Ikebana show opens Feb. 24

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MANILA Chapter 108, in cooperation with Shangri-La Plaza Corp., will hold its 39th Annual Exhibition, Feb. 24-26, at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

This year's theme is Ikebana Variations 2006.

Guests of honor are Noriko Yamazaki, Ikenobo professor Nobu Kurashige, and Lala Fojas of Shangri-La Plaza Corp.

More than 70 individual arrangements will be showcased including those from the embassy of Japan ladies.

One arrangement will be done in memory of the chapter founder, the late Carmen S. Guevarra, who became its first president in 1966. The arrangement will be done by Peng Guevarra-Lazaro, the founder's daughter, who is overall chair of this year's show.

Other members of the organizing committee are Ikebana president Vangie Cheng, and co-chair Nonnette Hubilla.

St. Padre Pio helps rehabilitate addict

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE DEVOTION OF DIDI CLORIBEL Rodriguez to St. Padre Pio helped in the rehabilitation from drugs of her son, Ramon Jose "RJ" Rodriguez Jr. He underwent a successful rehabilitation at New Beginnings.

RJ, 35, now runs his own business. He is happily married to Maiya Mathay, daughter of Sonia Mathay and former Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay.

RJ was addicted to *shabu* from the age of 13 because he wanted to be accepted by his peers. He didn't have a problem with his family, having loving parents. But he wanted to have fun with his friends.

At 22, he entered New Beginnings. His mother Didi continued to pray to St. Padre Pio.

12 steps

Dondi Ayuyao, who was a drug addict himself but underwent rehabilitation at the center, is now the executive director. He took a course in addiction counseling at the John Kennedy University in Orenda, Northern California.

Rehabilitation at New Beginnings follows a 75-day program or two and a half months. It adheres strictly to the 12 steps of Narcotics Anonymous. Robie Bernardo, a rehabilitated drug addict, and Leo Aguinaldo, a recovering alcoholic, stay at the center, helping addicts gain back their self-esteem. Other counselors are Rosario Velez, Thomas Calingo and Gene Eusebio.

The two-story center is at 23 Ynchausti St., BF Homes, Phase VI-A, Parañaque (tel. 7722122 or 8094578, hotline is 0920-9066200).

Founded in 1991 by Iñigo Zobel and his friends, New Beginnings' website is www.newbigs.org.

In gratitude, Didi and her husband, Ramon Rodriguez Sr., continue to propagate the devotion to Padre Pio. They put up the Padre Pio Chapel inside their property at 188 Compound, E. Rodriguez Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

A Mass is held at 5 p.m. every first Friday. The glove of St. Padre Pio is venerated. Starting March 2, the novena to Padre Pio will be said after the 12 noon Mass every Thursday at the Greenhills Chapel.

Life of darkness

Rod Simons, worship leader of God Loves Catholic Prayer Community, said, before he found Jesus, he led a life of darkness by taking *shabu*. His wife left him, he lost his job and nearly lost his son, Carlo, until his wife gave him custody of the child.

So when he sang "Sing Your Love" during the recent 15th anniversary of God Loves, it was heartfelt because the lyrics described his life.

A Philosophy graduate from the University of the Philippines, Rod works for Crosswind International Specialty Products. He found Jesus again when he attended the Life in the Spirit Seminar of God Loves in 2000 on the suggestion of his friend, Gabby Cadiz, brother of another worship leader, Sonny.

" The call to change his life came when he was one of the apostles during the "Washing of the Feet" on Holy Thursday 2000 at the UP parish church. From then on, Rod knew he was changing, wanting only to focus on the Lord, his son and his job.

From Agoo

Sixty members of God Loves (Agoo Chapter) traveled by bus from La Union to Manila to attend the Holy Mass at the Tent on Holy Spirit Road. They were led by Bro. Cesar Talucod, servant leader. Joining the offering of the gifts during the Offertory were Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Mel Mathay, Vilma Valera, Jomari Yllana, Albert Martinez, Jeffrey Campos, Ram Antonio, Babes and Babot Oreta, Malou Laurel, Ed Sy, Marizon Chua and Christy Aspiras.

At least 500 attended the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani with Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, SSP.

God Loves will hold a Mass at 7:30 p.m., March 1, first Wednesday, at the Community House, 84-A, 10th St., New Manila.

Consultation

Recent advances in science have made leprosy curable. But the disease has to be detected and treated early with the Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) so patients no longer have to suffer the crippling effects of the disease.

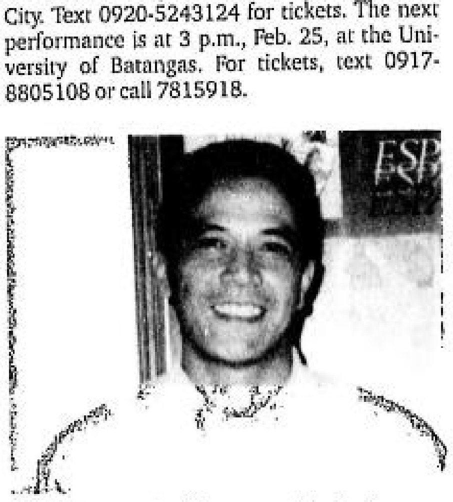
As part of the prevention and early detection campaign, the Philippines Leprosy Mission (PLM) is doing a skin consultation among inmates of the Quezon City Jail on Feb. 24; a walk for a cause at 6 a.m., Feb. 25, from Quezon Memorial Circle; and a skin survey among families of school children in Bacarra and San Nicolas in Ilocos Norte, Feb. 27-March 3.

Healing Mass

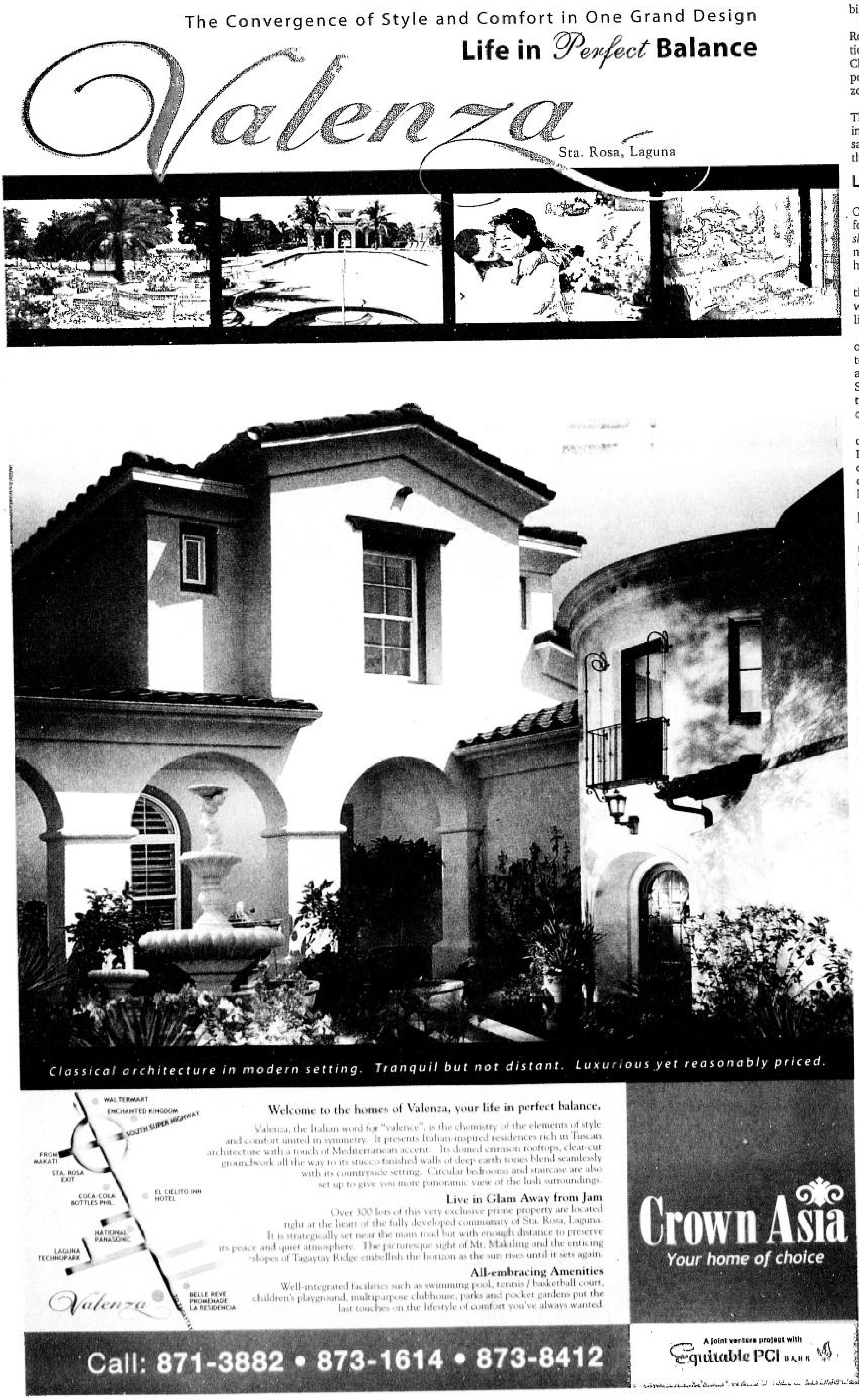
Fr. Nelson Osorio will hold a Healing Mass at 3 p.m., Feb. 24, at Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Tierra Pura, QC. Call (043) 7262461 or text 0917-8504702.

Musical play

Orlina Atelier and Birhen ng Caysasay Productions will present the musical play "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" at 6 p.m., Feb. 24, at the Lyceum of Batangas, Batangas City. Text 0920-5243124 for tickets. The next performance is at 3 p.m., Feb. 25, at the University of Batangas. For tickets, text 0917-8805108 or call 7815918.



ROD Simons, God Loves worship leader



The Convergence of Style and Comfort in One Grand Design
Life in Perfect Balance
Valenza
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Classical architecture in modern setting. Tranquil but not distant. Luxurious yet reasonably priced.

Welcome to the homes of Valenza, your life in perfect balance.

Valenza, the Italian word for "valence", is the chemistry of the elements of style and comfort united in symmetry. It presents Italian-inspired residences rich in Tuscan architecture with a touch of Mediterranean accent. Its domed crimson rooftops, clear-cut groundwork all the way to its stucco finished walls of deep earth tones blend seamlessly with its countryside setting. Circular bedrooms and staircase are also set up to give you more panoramic view of the lush surroundings.

Live in Glam Away from Jam

Over 300 lots of this very exclusive prime property are located right at the heart of the fully developed community of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. It is strategically set near the main road but with enough distance to preserve its peace and quiet atmosphere. The picturesque sight of Mt. Makiling and the enticing slopes of Tagaytay Ridge embellish the horizon as the sun rises until it sets again.

All-embracing Amenities

Well-integrated facilities such as swimming pool, tennis / basketball court, children's playground, multipurpose clubhouse, parks and pocket gardens put the last touches on the lifestyle of comfort you've always wanted.

Call: 871-3882 • 873-1614 • 873-8412

Crown Asia
Your home of choice
A joint venture project with Equitable PCI BANK

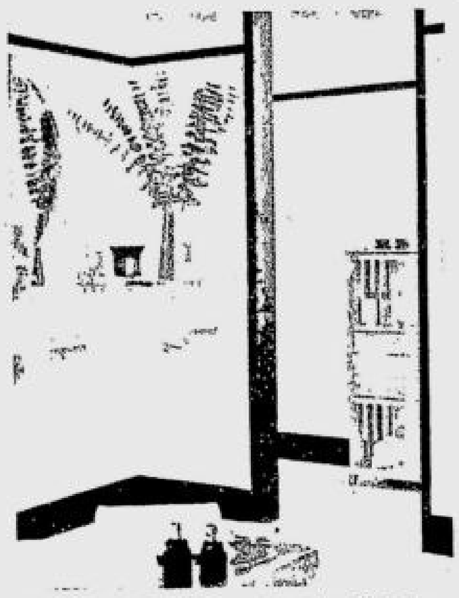
Add an Iberian touch to your home

From page F1

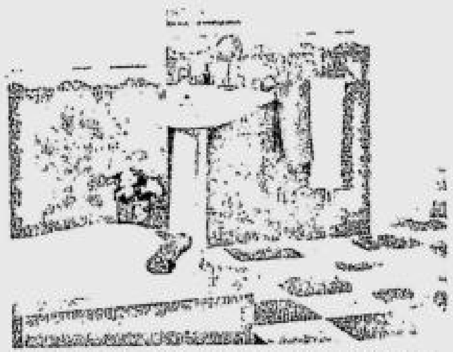
Spanish tiles are now found in over 180 countries around the world, with each culture applying its own style and format.

Federal's Spanish tiles include the Stylnul, Azteca Ceramica, and Porcelanatto Cerfogres brands. The brands not only deliver high-quality and durable tiles for interior decoration, but they also are renowned for their aesthetic designs.

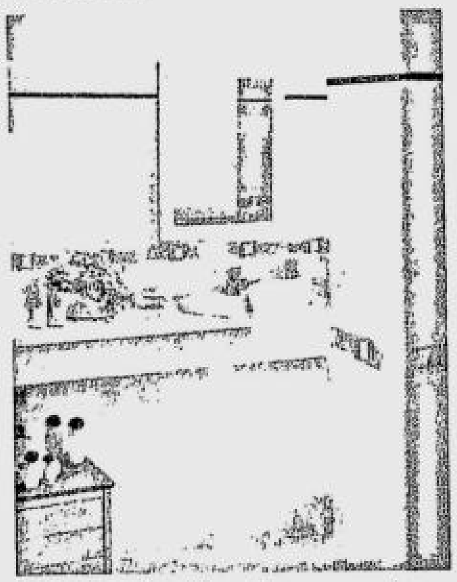
The Federal Design Expo is located at 2250 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8936553/8936589.



AN EYE-CATCHING combination: Malpica and wood-like Fusta Wenge tiles from Azteca Ceramica



SKY-BLUE Imperial Azul and white Imperial Claro tiles from Stylnul give a playful vibe to the bathroom.



MATISSE wall and floor tiles are a popular choice among homeowners.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

POSTABLE■GHOUL■ASIMOV
INTERIOR■LEONE■RENAME
BEATSTOAPULPIT■RUCKER
BARRE■■■LIP■■SMASHERS
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BEESITTING■ATOM■■PTA■
ALT■ORECK■STU■■MAT■■■
SLAW■ASK■BITINGCROSBY
SALARY■SEAMY■ERIC■AYE
■■■SEES■ABO■MAO■HIVES
■LONGDISTANCERATITES■
SORTA■GUN■PAS■NAVI■■■
AVE■IAML■JUDAH■IFMALE
LEGITWARMERS■OAF■SLED
■■■MAI■■ITT■DOTER■TAG
■LAO■■VILE■PETITEHOSE
SUNVISITOR■UPSTATE■■■
INGENUES■■UNO■■■ALINE
LEERED■THEPITIEDPIPER
TULIPS■OUTIE■ALOEVERA
SPOTTY■OTHER■MISDEEDS

Stronger Bones, Fuller Lives!

Adoracion Rosario
All-around Mom, 55 years old

Sa bahay, kahit trabaho ng lalaki kaya kong gawin. Eight years na kasi akong umiinom ng Anlene. Would you believe that at this age, umaakyat pa ako ng 15-foot water tank? Ako din ang nagpipintura ng aming bubong at naglilinis ng gutter. Inaakyat ko din ang malunggay tree to harvest its leaves and fruits. Lahat 'yan kaya kong gawin dahil before I reached my golden age, umiinom na ako ng Anlene Active. At noong 50 years old na ako, I continued my habit by moving to Anlene Gold. At 53, I was proven to have the bones of a 28-year-old. With Anlene, hindi lang ako housewife, I'm a super handywoman!

***Grand Prize winner
of P100,000***

Natividad Remojo
Swinging Survivor, 67 years old

Mahilig akong mag-ballroom dancing. Pero after 42 years ng pagiging teacher, nagkaroon ako ng osteo-arthritis. Hindi curable ang sakit ko. Simpleng paglalakad lang masakit na, lalo na ang pag-akyat ng stairs. I felt so helpless. I can only rely on pain relievers and a quadrant cane para mabawasan ang sakit. Lalo akong nanlumo dahil I had to give up ballroom dancing. Buti na lang na-discover ko ang Anlene Gold. I read that it was effective in preventing bone loss among Asian women. For three years, I made it a habit to drink Anlene Gold. At mula noon, napapansin ko na nababawasan ang sakit. I started to move with ease. Now, kaya ko nang lumakad without using my cane! And of course, I'm back dancing again with my husband. With Anlene in my life, I'm free to do what I love to do.

***2nd Prize winner
of P30,000 gym membership***

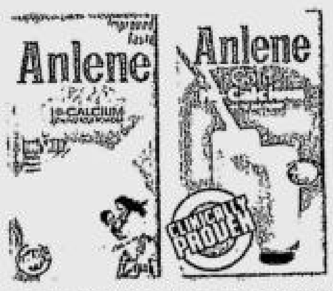
Haydee H. Quijano
Fitness SuperMom, 35 years old

Mag-isa kong pinapalaki ang apat kong anak. At ang isa sa kanila ay may cerebral palsy pa. But that's my life and I have come to accept it. It's physically draining kaya I use all the help I can get. I'm really glad na Anlene lang pala ang sagot sa sitwasyon ko. It helps me carry out my duties at home and at work. Dahil hindi lang ako single mom, I'm also an Aerobics instructor. Everyday, I handle 3 sessions of Aerobics and weight-training exercise for my gym class. Pagdating ko sa bahay, I have to do household chores and attend to my kids. Anlene gives me the energy to do all. Talagang super mom ako with Anlene!

***3rd Prize winner
of P10,000 sports package
and P7,000 gym membership***

Anlene in My LIFE

Real Stories of Strength, Survival & Renewal



FOR STRONG BONES

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LifeStyle

Underscoring a history of trust

Trust is built over time, earned and strengthened with constant nurturing and deliberate care. It is the fragile and precious foundation underlying all relationships.

This is how Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) feels about trust and how it is earned. Indeed, the heritage of trust in the Ayala business goes far and deep and is a vital and integral aspect of its professional, business and community relations. It is a valued mindset passed on by six generations who have built the Ayala business over the past 172 years — since its first ventures in 1834 in alcohol distilling, sugar milling, rope and dye making, brick and ceramic manufacturing, coal mining and tramway operations.

With these diverse and thriving endeavors, the company then known as Casa Ayala, had also built a real estate portfolio that included an area of marshland called Makati. Going against the tide of the city's development at that time and armed with a strong, focused vision and the determination to see it through, Mr. Zobel's predecessors began Makati's long and laborious transformation from barren land into a world class high-end residential and commercial business center.

Now the once ignored and undervalued Makati has become the preferred site of multi-national companies, embassies, international hotels, restaurants, malls, residential communities and a host of other businesses. Teeming and bustling with life and commerce, the activity that resonates from it today is indicative of its real worth and value. "This is an affirmation of Ayala's careful planning and commitment to the development of Makati and its confidence in the resilience of the Philippine economy," says Zobel de Ayala.

Makati stands as a testament to Ayala's capability to provide high quality, well-managed real estate products through which it has perhaps earned its reputation as the most trusted name in the industry.

Mr. Zobel de Ayala adds, "we have endeavored over many years to build the trust and confidence of our customers, our business partners and all our stakeholders. We have sought to carefully nurture and reinforce these by consistently providing quality products and services that not only create value for the company, but even more importantly, enhance the lives of the people we seek to serve."

Ayala's faith in the promise of the country's real estate industry led to the spin off of Ayala Corporation's real estate division into an independent subsidiary, Ayala Land, Inc., giving the company the opportunity to focus on this core business. By 1991, Ayala Land listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange and began to make headway in new markets, redefining itself as a developer for a much broader market. It has significantly widened its spectrum of products and services to reach the very high-end and the broader mass market.

As the country's only full line real estate developer today, ALI builds integrated residential communities, condominiums, town houses and single-family homes, business and commercial districts, industrial parks, regional shopping centers, lifestyle centers, and value malls.

It is in a class of its own.

While solidifying its stronghold in the high-end market, ALI introduced new concepts and innovations that captured special niches of this market. It also intensified its presence in the middle and mass housing markets.

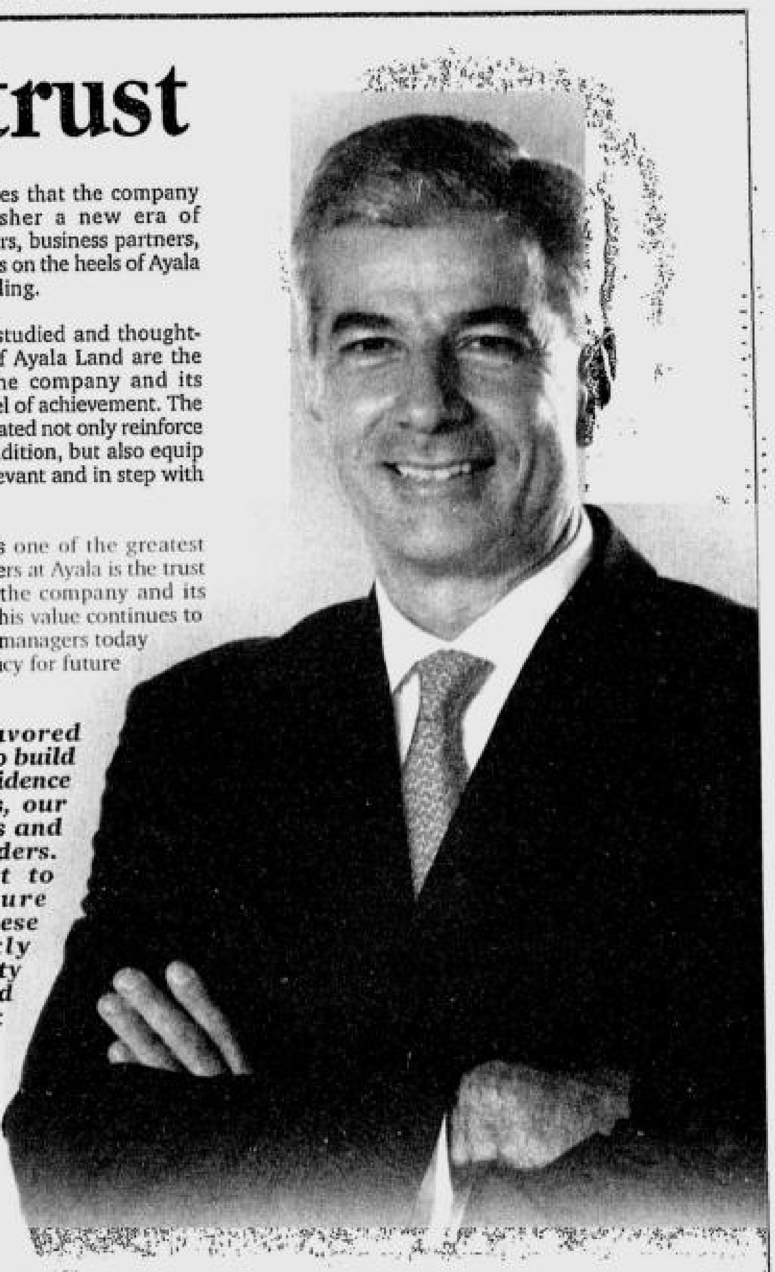
The profile of ALI customers has changed significantly in recent years. Mr. Zobel notes, "we are delighted to be in a strong financial and market position to address the emerging demands in the industry and to be able to serve a much larger client base." He continues, "as we widen our customer base, we also increase and focus our attention on specific niche segments."

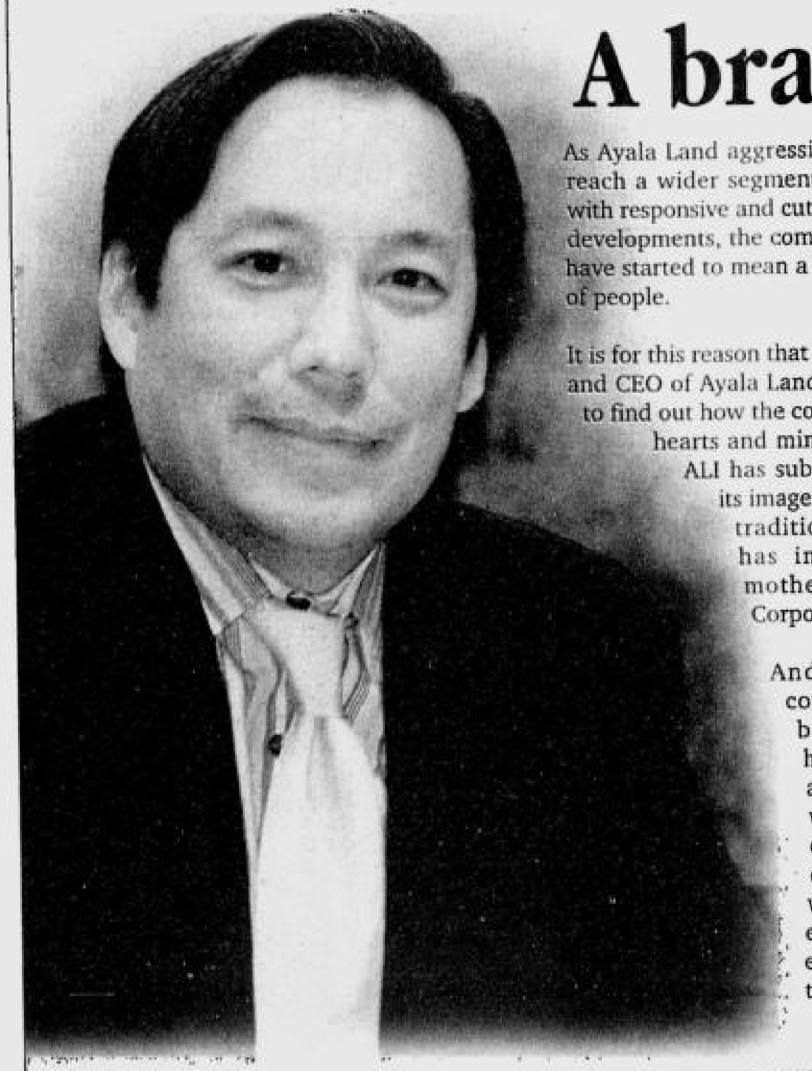
The logo and brand changes that the company has recently initiated usher a new era of commitment to its customers, business partners, and stakeholders. This comes on the heels of Ayala Corporation's own re-branding.

As a deliberate, carefully-studied and thought-out concept, the brands of Ayala Land are the vehicles that will take the company and its customers into the next level of achievement. The changes that have been initiated not only reinforce the time-honored Ayala tradition, but also equip the company to remain relevant and in step with the times.

Mr. Zobel notes, "perhaps one of the greatest legacies of previous managers at Ayala is the trust they have built between the company and its numerous stakeholders. This value continues to be firmly ingrained in our managers today as the most important legacy for future generations."

> ***"We have endeavored over many years to build the trust and confidence of our customers, our business partners and all our stakeholders. We have sought to carefully nurture and reinforce these by consistently providing quality products and services that not only create value for the company, but even more importantly, enhance the lives of the people we seek to serve."***





A brand above the rest

As Ayala Land aggressively endeavored to reach a wider segment of our population with responsive and cutting-edge real estate developments, the company and the brand have started to mean a lot of things to a lot of people.

It is for this reason that Jim Ayala, President and CEO of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), wanted to find out how the company stands in the hearts and minds of its customers. ALI has subsequently refreshed its image while preserving the tradition of excellence it has inherited from the mother company, Ayala Corporation.

And as Ayala Land continues to take its business to new heights, its customers and stakeholders, whoever they may be, can expect three deliverables that will meet their expectations and effectively address their individual needs.

Integrity, reliability and commitment. These are the three tenets Ayala Land lives by for each and every customer that it serves. Each company employee takes this to heart and all their work speaks of nothing else — this is what makes ALI rise above the rest. The change in the company's image is meant to reflect this better. Ayala says, "By no means is this change superficial, for we have evolved to reflect Ayala Land's sharper customer focus and accountability." And in 2005, it was these three tenets that allowed the company to continue to provide only the best for their customers across all their product offerings with award-winning planning and design excellence.

> ***"We have evolved to reflect Ayala Land's sharper customer focus and accountability."***

Ayala Land Premier carries ALI's products for the discriminating affluent. Its developments are the most coveted of addresses, the services that come with it over and above what is required. And for the urban achievers and upwardly mobile professionals, Community Innovations addresses their residential needs via communities that attest to their accomplishment and promote interaction among neighbors. Safety and security are assured in these meticulously planned and well-located developments. Avida, on the other hand, is directed at middle class Filipino families aspiring to own their first home or to live in a peaceful and, orderly neighborhood. Highly accessible to public and mass transport systems, these developments are creatively designed and constructed for reliable performance over the long haul. And, of course, Ayala Malls are well-known for giving what the customers want and anticipating what they need. Ayala Malls are models for business and leisure, and have become, more than shopping centers, playgrounds and havens.

In a very tangible way, Ayala Land has changed to stay the same. The transformation will enable more people to experience what they've heard about through the years: the vaunted Ayala Land brand promise, and its unique value propositions.

This, in turn, will further reinforce Ayala Land's preeminence in the real estate industry – a leadership founded on trust and a proven track record for delivering on-spec, on-time, and best-in-class products and services.

Enhancing land, enriching lives... for more people

What's behind Ayala Land's promises of Integrity, Reliability and Commitment? As Rex Mendoza, Senior Vice-President for Corporate Sales and Marketing, would put it, "There are hundreds of examples. Here's just one: any decent developer will build roads in their subdivisions that can withstand the traffic of cars. But Ayala Land builds roads that can withstand the traffic of heavy trucks. Because trucks pass those roads as homes are being built." That's the Ayala Land difference. Over the decades, the clientele of Ayala Land have understood and valued the Ayala Land difference. The traditional clientele are the elite. After all, that's where Ayala Land made its name. But Ayala Land has expanded its line of projects to touch the lives of a greater number of people, from the very rich, to the fast-rising young urbanites, and hard-working middle class who form the backbone of the nation.

Recognizing this, Corporate Marketing headed by Tina Esguerra initiated a review of the Ayala Land brand identity. This involved the active participation of all strategic business units who have touchpoints with customers. The purpose: to be more responsive to the times and the many sectors of Filipinos that Ayala Land now serves. "This is the philosophy behind the refreshed logos and the re-energized business units of Ayala Land," according to Mr. Mendoza.

AyalaLand PREMIER

As Ayala Land had pioneered the high-end real estate market, it now passes its heritage of ultimate, exclusive premier developments unto the Ayala Land Premier brand. Always a notch above the rest in product quality, design and living experience, Ayala Land Premier developments provide a sense of distinctiveness and value over time. Landmark locations, expansive living spaces, luxurious finishes and first-rate amenities — these are the details that spell the Ayala Land Premier experience. Whether in a primary residence, a weekend home or a leisure getaway, the discerning affluent know Ayala Land Premier is unmatched and unparalleled.

Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an AyalaLand company

Catering to the urban high achievers, Community Innovations developments enhance the living experiences and fulfill the lifestyle and aspirations of the fast rising set with vibrant communities that reflect their cosmopolitan tastes and needs. Each development of Community Innovations promotes close ties among neighbors in a safe and secure environment. Well located and meticulously planned, a Community Innovations condominium or home is designed to let today's urban achievers enjoy the life they deserve. And as they work their way to the top, Community Innovations works right along with them.

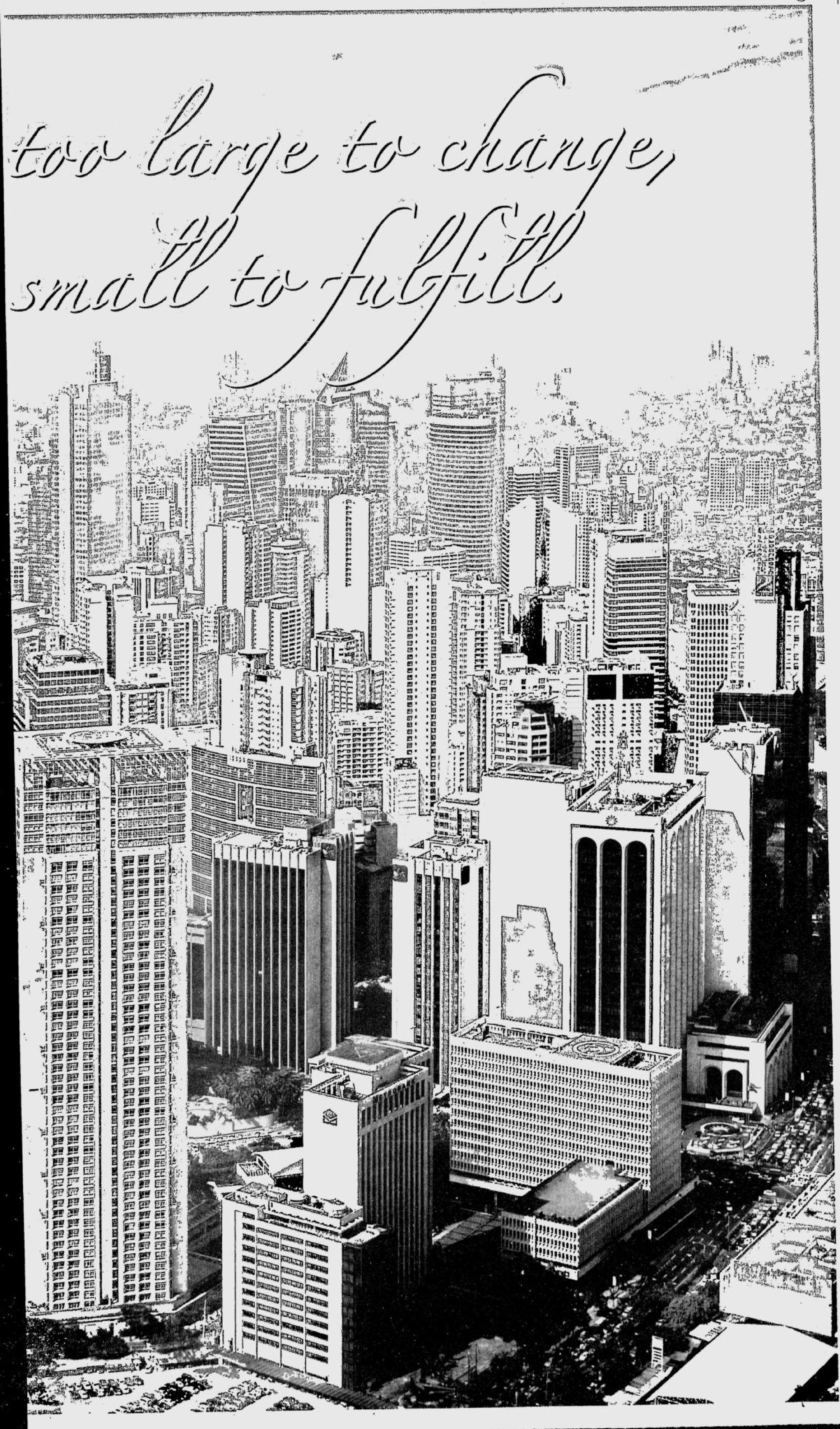
Avida
Affordable living at its best
an AyalaLand company

The hard-working middle class is the engine of the nation's growth. Their dream: a home to be proud of in a peaceful, safe community that is accessible to public transportation. And they deserve peace of mind, to know that the dream they have worked hard for will not be marred by broken promises. Backed by Ayala Land's Integrity, Reliability and Commitment, Avida assures homeowners of developments that strictly adhere to statutory standards, reliable performance over time, and quality of design and construction. This is Avida's promise.

Ayala Malls
Lov'eMall!

Of all of Ayala Land's offerings, Ayala Malls serve the broadest range of people with more than a million people going through its doors everyday. Resisting the temptation to make all the malls uniform in design and construction, each Ayala Mall exudes a unique personality — to serve different people, and to provide variety in shopping, entertainment and leisure activities. Ayala Malls offer a perfect venue for enjoying relationships among families, friends and colleagues.

There is no landscape
no dream too big or


too large to change,
small to fulfill.

To Ayala Land, a piece of land is never "just a piece of land."

Old Makati

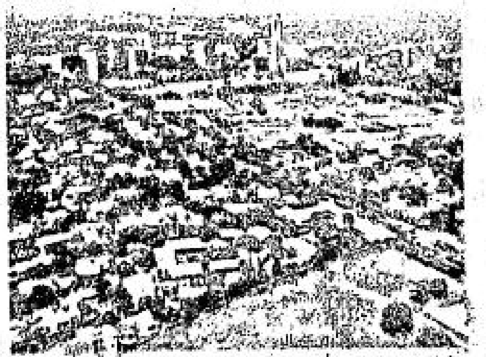
Not so long ago, Ayala Corporation took a chance with a large area of grassland in the south called Makati. An old airfield was transformed into what the world now knows as the nation's premier business district — the Makati Central Business District. To many it seemed like a foolish investment, but to a few it was a vision of greater things to come and the beginning of Ayala's dream to change the country's landscape. High-end, well-managed residential villages like Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village were designed to redefine the concept of exclusive communities, and to this day continue to be the country's residential gold standards. The imposing Makati skyline still remains the symbol of our country's financial hope and progress.

In 1977, Ayala Land began selling a large yet unknown piece of land further south with the vision of turning it into one of the country's most exclusive residential communities. Some skeptics called this a "losing investment", considering that no other real estate company had looked that far south into the future. Twenty-eight years later, lots have appreciated 83 times their original value. Of course, we all know this community today as Ayala Alabang Village.

New Makati Skyline

Ayala Land's vision extended even farther down south and has turned Cebu into the bustling metro we know today, with Ayala Center Cebu in the midst of Cebu's business district.

And the vision continues — this includes scaling the next "promised land", the Bonifacio Global City, with plans to turn it into the country's next mega residential and commercial district. New project concepts span from north to south — with the recent launch of the highly exclusive Anvaya Cove in Subic and Amara in Cebu.



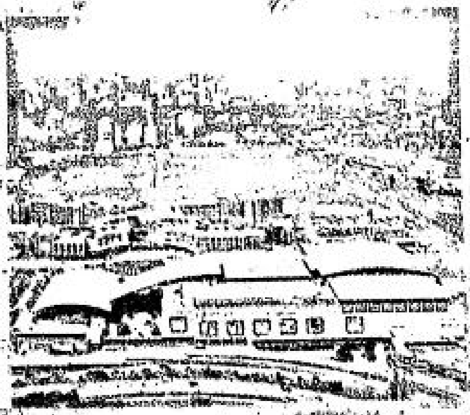
Ayala Alabang

To pioneer land development, to improve quality of life. That is our commitment. Our

integrity

is without question. Foresight and a keen sense of the future have made us the largest, the most experienced and the most trusted.

Now allow us to show you around.



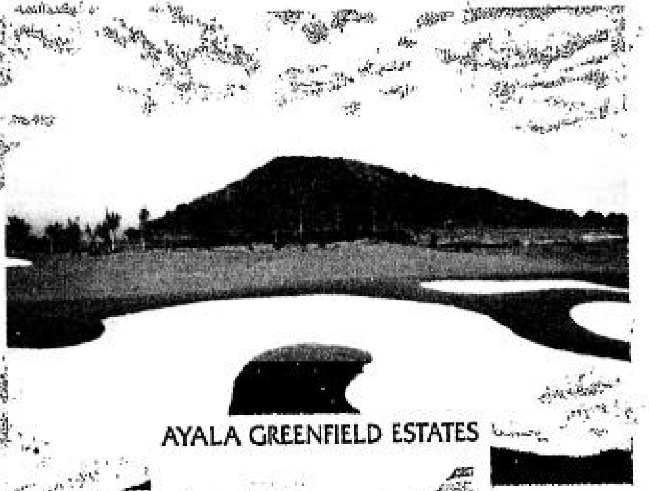
Bonifacio Global City

www.ayalaland.com.ph

Aya

Trust us to help

AyalaLand PREMIER


AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

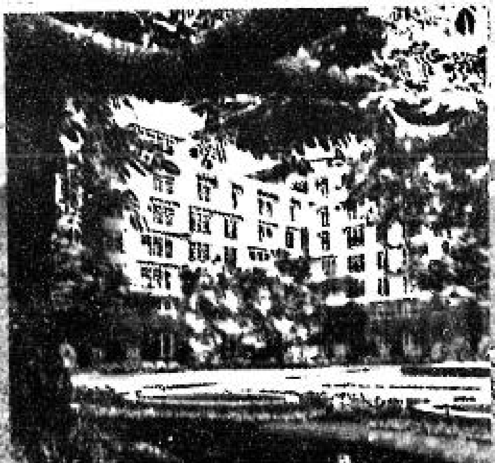
There is a select few for whom quality of home life will always be top priority. People of distinction look for similarly well-appointed abodes, and will wisely pay a premium for addresses that place them at the lap of luxury. Homes that provide a sense of exclusivity, security, comfort, and privacy — a standard of living that not only retains but also creates value over time.

THE RESIDENCES
AT Greenbelt

Now, Ayala Land further strengthens its distinction of being the first, full-line real estate developer to meet the needs of discerning homeowners with the formation of Ayala Land Premier. It will continue the legacy of years of premium residences, set amid equally prime locations, giving only the best and most luxurious options in real estate. Innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, with first-class amenities, wide spacious areas and exquisite details, Ayala Land Premier developments are true testaments to what constitutes genuine quality living.

ANVAYA COVE

Ayala Land Premier extends an excellent brand of service and care that's consistent from the point of sale to long after property turnover, thus ensuring a superior yet unobtrusive lifestyle for all. It forms part of an effortless world of convenience, comfort and *reliability* that people in the know truly appreciate and value.


ONE Serendra

laLand

fulfill your dream.

Community Innovations

Live the life you deserve

an AyalaLand company

THE COLUMNS
Legazpi village

Two Serendra

Innovation and comfort. Beauty and function. It's every bit as good as it sounds. The excitement is building with Community Innovations, dedicated to serving the property needs of today's urban achievers.

Celadon Residences
San Lazaro

VerdanaHomes
mamplasan

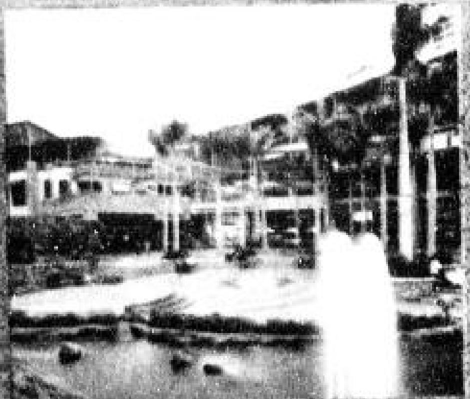
From The Columns to Verdana Homes to Celadon Residences to Two Serendra, Community Innovations is focused on developing homes within vibrant communities that suit their fast-paced and active lifestyles. The Columns offer casual and relaxed living with a contemporary and exuberant feel, right in Makati's central business district. Verdana Homes inspire cozy suburban living that is intimate and in harmony with nature, yet still modern. Celadon Residences provide ideal living with townhouses set within a private enclave tucked neatly in the heart of Manila. Two Serendra at the Bonifacio Global City promises serene urban living amidst lush greenery. All with the convenience of offices, schools, malls and shops in close proximity, with playgrounds and vast open areas for kids to discover and explore. Now, anyone who chooses to live in any of these residences can enjoy the life they deserve. That is the *commitmen*

of Community Innovations.

Ayala Malls

Who hasn't been to an Ayala Mall? The family-friendly Glorietta, the
Greenbelt, the premier mall of the south, Ayala Center Cebu and the b
of place that brings a one-of-a-kind rewarding experience that goes beyo
enriched, where weekends become more memorable, where there's som
every Filipino's life. And really, no matter who you are and no matter w

Glorietta


GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CEN
CEBU

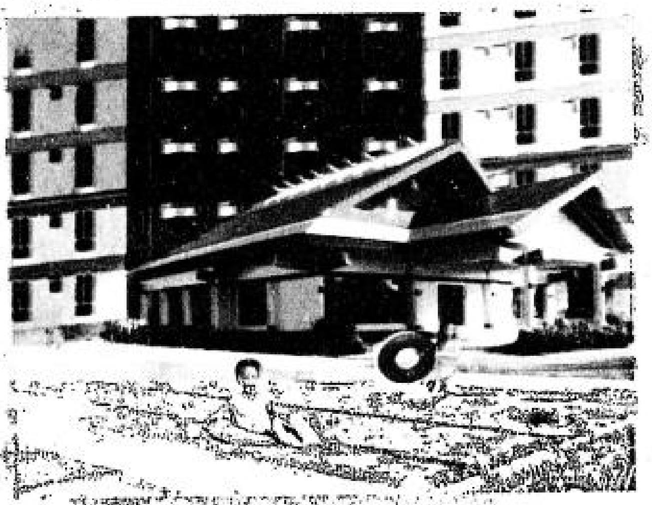
Avida

Affordable living at its best

an AyalaLand company

Avida knows how hard you work to provide your loved ones with a home that you can be truly proud of. Dream homes like Avida Santa Catalina in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Avida Communities in Antipolo and the Avida Towers in San Lazaro, are now made more accessible to every Filipino family — with the assurance of a good, quality investment that comes from being developed by an Ayala Land company.

Avida Santa Catalina
Dasmariñas, Cavite



Avida Towers
San Lazaro

Avida goes beyond just well-designed homes. Importance is given to things that really matter, and what smart buyers should look for to ensure long-term security: high-quality materials, continuous service of basic utilities, efficient water, drainage and sewer systems, village maintenance and provision of community amenities.

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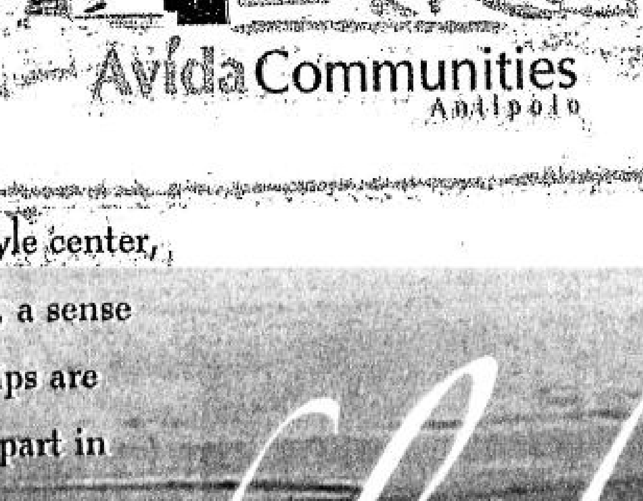

Avida Communities
Antipolo

omey Alabang Town Center, the ultra-hip and internationally awarded lifestyle center,
rgain hunters haven Market!Market! Each Ayala Mall has its unique design, a sense
nd shopping. It is a way for families to get together, a place where relationships are
thing special for each member of the family. Ayala Malls play an important part in
hat you enjoy doing, there will always be an Ayala Mall for you. It simply

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MARKET!
MARKET!

Ayala Land: Living its values

Behind the stories that speak of Ayala Land's values of integrity, reliability and commitment, is a workforce that lives and breathes them.

Elis Tanlapco, Vice-President for Employee Services, declares this is a consequence of getting and retaining only people who share the company's values. "We have a saying that we get the best and retain the best – not just in terms of competence but character as well."

"In everything, integrity," concurs Junie Jalandoni of the Planning Group. "That is the watchword for every Ayala Land employee. It becomes a habit because in all our dealings, there is care, conscience and accountability – whether internal or external."

"From our perspective at the Technical Planning Division, it isn't just about designing a beautiful structure," division head Joel Luna emphasizes. "We also make sure of our clients' safety and convenience within the functional environments that we strive to create. We try to produce excellent products that will remain valued through time in all of our master planning activities."

"A big part of the commitment to customer satisfaction is not seen by our buyers," states Emilio Tumbocon, Vice-President of the Construction Management Group. "A large part lies in the structural elements of our projects. From the start of the construction process, we focus a lot of attention on this to ensure high quality and utmost integrity that assures an Ayala Land development will last not just a lifetime, but for generations."

Even the Legal Department lives by these values as it plays a crucial role in enforcing deed restrictions.

"They are made for a reason – to protect the integrity, image, and safety of our developments. Ultimately, these serve our clients' investment," Atty. Sheila Uriarte-Tan underscores.

And truly, while the commitment of other real estate companies ends with the turnover of the unit, Ayala Land prides itself in being there well after the homeowner or buyer has settled into the property. Head of Customer Care and Sales Administration, Katrina Yatco says, "That's what true customer service means – seeing to the needs of the buyer even well after the sales completion. That speaks of quality and reliability."

And commitment – exemplified by Ayala Property Management Corporation (APMC), tasked with ensuring that property values are enhanced over time in all of ALI's projects. "Ayala Land is able to make bold commitments to its buyers partly because of the work that we do," affirms Raul Irlanda, President of APMC. "We see to it that high-quality projects like ALI developments remain that way, if not improved, well after turnover to buyers."

Clearly, these testimonies vindicate Ayala Land's almost obsessive adherence to the strictest standards – raising the bar for the supreme challenge of trying to better our best. That integrity, reliability and commitment are three of the constants in any ALI project and within any of its employees. At the end of it all, are the precious words of praise from valued partners, tenants, and customers. Glowing testimonies, indeed, that have driven us throughout our glorious history; and will continue to drive us towards a future that is made more exciting and viable.

Ayala Land: A testament to shared values

What sets apart a property developer from the competition are the good words of customers across all its product lines. And these positive testimonies continue to challenge ALI on to greater heights.

Integrity, reliability, and commitment are big words but unless they are lived out and shared, they are just that — words. Ayala Land has, over the years, gone through great lengths to ensure that the whole company breathes and lives these values.

As an expected result, customers, whether individual homeowners or corporate entities, as well as business partners who share these same principles have gravitated towards the company and its property developments.

Kamiseta suits up at Ayala Malls

"It was a logical decision from every standpoint. We have been aware of the exemplary Ayala way of doing business. We knew our brand and its image will not just be well cared for, but even enhanced," says Cris Roque, vice president and creative director of Kamiseta, the country's leading specialty retailer of fashionable casual apparel, accessories, and footwear for girls.

P&G at home in 6750

"6750 Ayala Avenue has been our home since it opened its doors in 1993. The only office tower in Ayala Center, we enjoy being part of a vibrant community where nearly everything is within reach," Johnip Cua, P&G president says.

From the '70s next big thing to today's next big thing

Joselito Santos is well aware of this promise. His family was the first to build a home at Ayala Alabang in 1978, when interest in the south was just starting to gain momentum. "It was a matter of foresight and faith," he affirms. It was faith well-founded, as Ayala Alabang turned out to be the exclusive, secure, and well-planned community it is today. Now, the Santos family has moved into an Ayala Westgrove Heights home. "It's the next big thing," Joselito declares, knowing his trust for the Ayala Land Premier brand has already reaped dividends.

Verdana-in-her-mind

"You have to believe in the company before you consider investing in it. Especially in this kind of lifelong investment, you need to be assured of the proper turnover time and quality. In this case, the name Ayala Land alone is like a signature of excellent quality, peace of mind, organization, and good feeling altogether," says Architect Malu Gutierrez. With her family, she is looking forward to moving into her dream house in Verdana Homes Mamplasan, a Community Innovations development.

A seaman docks in Avida

"I grew up in a tough Pasay neighborhood. Naturally, I wanted my kids to experience something better. When I'm away, I don't worry about their safety anymore. I also look forward to spend time at home when I'm on annual vacation from work. It's peaceful, safe, and beautiful here," says Arturo Corpus, a seaman, who subsequently moved his young family from an apartment into a four-bedroom abode at Avida Sta. Catalina in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Partnerships strengthened by Integrity, Reliability and Commitment.

A trailblazer in the industry. Admired for setting the bar higher and higher. This is Ayala Land – always at the forefront of real estate because it is so attuned to the needs of practically all property markets and adept at providing them. The edge of ALI and what makes all its projects stand out is exactly what makes a house a home — the level of comfort that comes from the premium services that are provided for all of its clients and partners. Those are given not because they are demanded but because Ayala Land has always believed in providing the best.

Shaping The Landscape
It all starts with Strategic Landbank Management — the arm of ALI that develops large-scale communities. It is responsible for the major developments that shape the face of the community and even the country. These include whole business districts, cultural areas, recreational areas, hotels and the like. Its objective is to improve the lives of the community surrounding these developments and to forge solid partnerships with investors, thereby making the country globally competitive.

Business Address of Choice
Ayala Land continues to find and provide property solutions not just for residential and commercial needs, but for businesses as well. This is seen best in Tower One & Exchange Plaza, and in 6750 right in the heart of Makati. Also most recently in the custom-fit hubs for PeopleSupport and Convergys. These buildings are models of form and function, and are also energy efficient.

Nothing But Quality ALI Service
Dreaming up these cutting edge projects is one thing. Giving them form is another. Makati Development Corporation (MDC) is hailed as the best in the industry for exactly this. With the same vision and values as the rest of the Ayala Land units, it has always been a source of pride for and integral to the success of ALI. With its track record of consistently providing Ayala Land on-time and on-budget services, MDC is a critical source of competitive advantage.

Sometimes, the difference between a good place to live and a great community are the services available there. Ayala Property Management Corporation (APMC) is responsible for providing the range of premium services for ALI's shopping centers, office buildings, condominiums, and subdivisions. As the company's closest link to its end-users such as property buyers, building lessors, mall visitors, and parking lot users, APMC is a primary means through which ALI demonstrates its commitment to service quality and excellence.

Through these business units, Ayala Land continues to play a big part in the development of the best real estate solutions for home, work and leisure. But on top of these, the Ayala heritage points it towards the path of principled and responsible corporate citizenship – traits that have lent moral strength to its policies and practices.

An Active Helping Hand
Through the years, the ALI commitment to corporate social responsibility has gone beyond its role as a good employer or business partner, or even as a good taxpaying citizen. It is a caring and involved neighbor; a steadfast friend of the environment. It makes time for not only improving the quality of life but for education, livelihood projects, skills training programs and social development as well, on top of the health, culture, and tourism programs. For example, The Laguna Workforce Information System, an ALI initiative, is an online database that links Laguna-based employers and job seekers. The Ayala Foundation, Ayala Young Leaders Congress, and Center for Excellence in Elementary Education or CENTEX all reached new heights in 2005 with the launch of VoluntarALI. The program allows more of ALI's employees to take part in volunteer work for various non-government organizations. Already, many have pledged time and effort to a diverse array of causes.

It is through all these that Ayala Land continues to grow, by making more livable, workable and beautiful environments and by improving the quality of life of so many. There is a need to build and a desire to help and ALI is committed to doing both for a long time to come.

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- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management.

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- At least 3 years management experience.
- Experience working in an HTML, XML, or similar authoring environment.
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- Good background in object-oriented design, data structures/algorithms.
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- At least five (5) years experience in Application Administration.
- Expertise in one or more of the major UNIX OS's in the industry.
- At least five (5) years experience in tuning and configuring large enterprise applications in a live customer environment and benchmark environment.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER – QUALITY

- Proficient in the creation of test designs, test plans and execution of test case/scripts.
- Proficient in understanding integration and regression testing.
- Knowledge of ERP applications.
- Knowledge of automated testing tools (Rational Robot, Skilltest, WinRunner, etc.).
- Knowledge of various internet/web-based applications.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design and programming methodologies and tools.
- Knowledge of physical and logical network infrastructure.

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- At least five (5) years of systems programming experience.
- Significant working experience using UNIX and/or Windows and programming languages such as C or C++ or Java.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design and programming methodologies and tools.
- Knowledge of appropriate Lawson application or domain preferred.
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration preferred.

APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE ENGINEER – RETAIL SOLUTIONS

- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design and programming methodologies and tools.
- Proven track record in developing and supporting the most complex application programs using various programming languages, technologies and development tools.

UNIX SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

- At least one (1) year of programming experience (ksh, bash).
- Level I certification of at least one vendor's Unix operating system, and/or equivalent experience.
- SAMBA and NFS experience.
- Solid understanding of general disk management, memory management, process management and general kernel/OS tuning.
- Ability to back-up and recover a base server using native OS tools.

SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

- Must be able to support and troubleshoot technologies relating to the following:

  UNIX/NT, Windows and iSeries Platforms, networks (Windows, etc.) languages (COBOL, RPG, Java, Java Script, XML, HTML), relational databases (Oracle, DB2, SQL Server) Tivoli directory server, Microsoft ADAM, OIS scripting and web technologies.

- Must possess and demonstrate the ability to perform program analysis, testing and debugging and provide team members with assistance in resolving customer problems.
- Advanced ERP (business and technical) WebSphere experience preferred.

TECHNICAL WRITER

- Two (2) to six (6) years technical writing experience with two (2) years on documentation.
- Very good editing skills.
- Experience using industry-related standard tools such as Framemaker, RoboHelp, Arbortext Epic, Dreamweaver and content management systems.
- Experience with markup languages such XML, SGML or HTML.
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- Male/Female at least 30 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- At least 4 years experience in Audit work including formulation of policies and procedures
- Experience in real estate operations an advantage

TRAINING OFFICER

- Male/Female 25-33yrs old
- Graduate of Psychology of Behavioral Science or any business course
- At least 2 yrs Sales training experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Minimum of 2 yrs experience in training program designing
- Background in Real Estate is an advantage

HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF

- Male/Female 23-30 years old
- Graduate of BS-Psychology from a reputable college/university
- With at least one year work experience in Compensation & Benefits
- Computer literate, with advanced skills in MS Office
- Excellent communication skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male/Female 23-28 years old
- Graduate of BSC-Accountancy from a reputable college/university
- With at least one year work experience in general accounting from a BPO/Real Estate/Service Industry
- Computer literate, with advanced skills in MS Office
- Preferably a CPA
- Excellent communication skills

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT STAFF

- Male/Female 23-28 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising or any related course from a reputable college/university
- With at least one year work experience in product management
- Computer literate, with advanced skills in MS Office
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INVENTORY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

- Male 26-35 years old
- Graduate of any Business Course from a reputable college/university
- With at least two years work experience in warehouse/logistics/inventory management
- Computer literate, with advanced skills in MS Office
- Excellent communication skills

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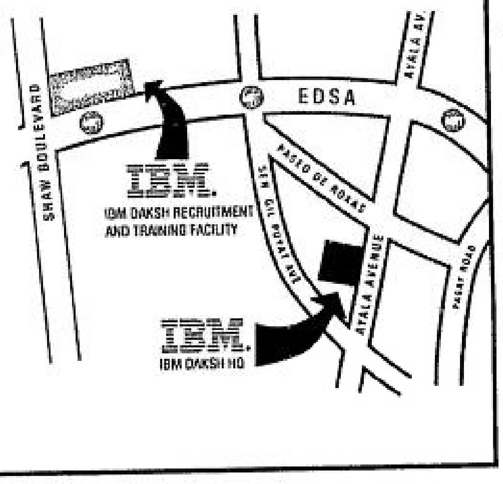

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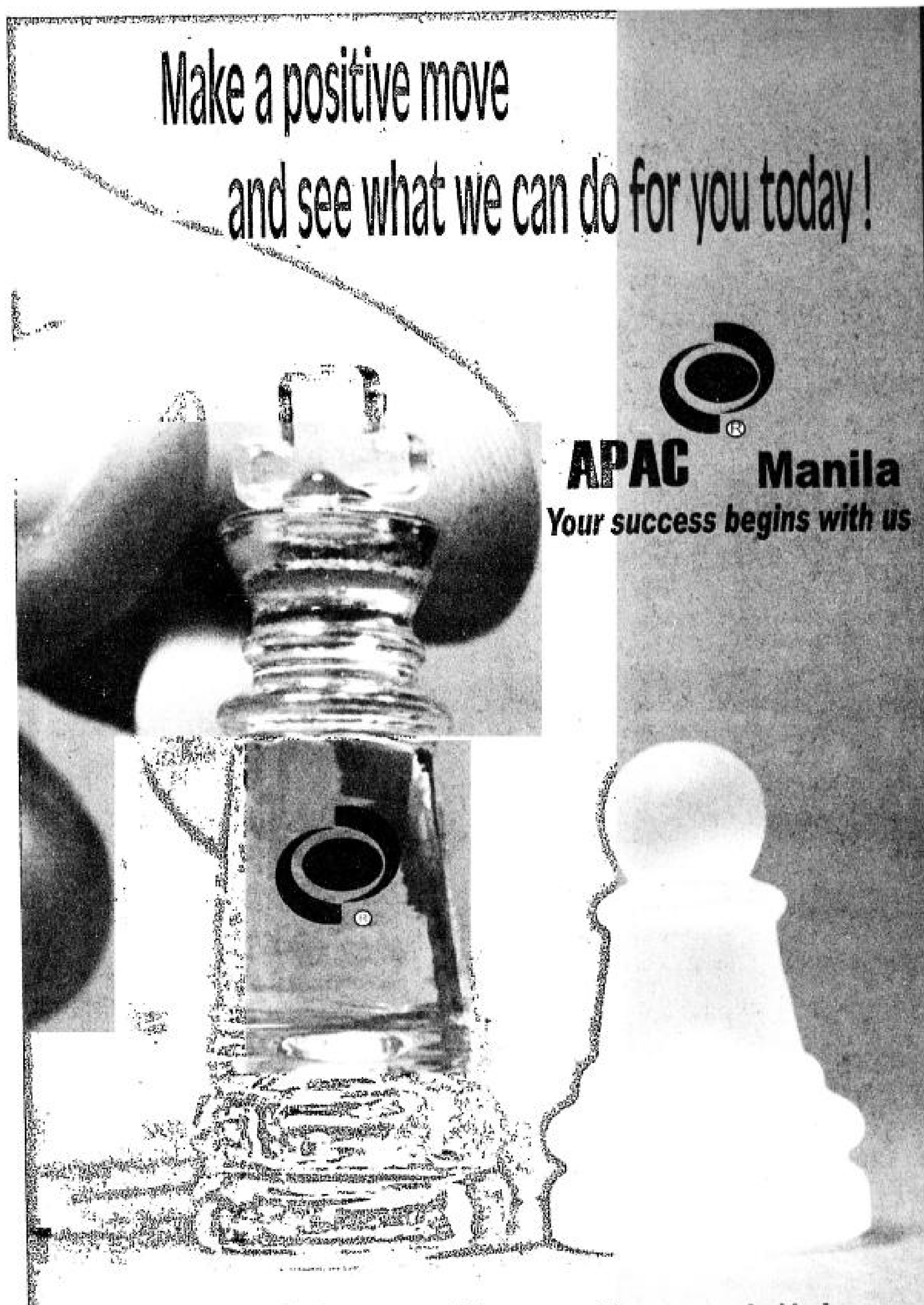

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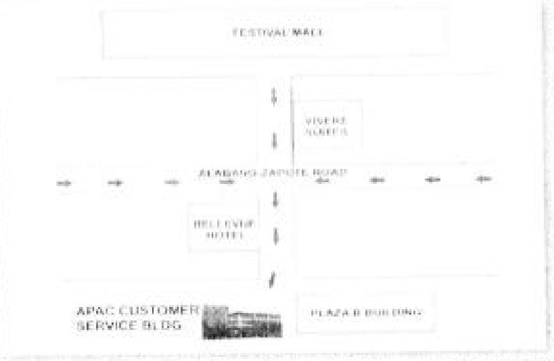

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

Requires an

Environmental Specialist

The Environment and Social Development Unit (EASES) at the World Bank Office in Manila (WBOM) is looking for a local **Environmental Specialist** with specialization in environmental assessment and management. The position will be an **Extended Term Consultant (ETC) appointment** for one year with a possible renewal for another year subject to satisfactory performance. The position is subject to local recruitment and successful candidate will work in the World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) directly reporting to the Country Sector Coordinator, Environment and Social Sector Unit, WBOM.

Duties and Accountabilities:

Specifically, he/she will have the following major duties and responsibilities:

Cross Support

1. Provide technical support and inputs to Task Team Leaders (TTLs) in designing projects to ensure that environmental safeguard issues are properly and adequately addressed in the project design;
2. Participate in implementation review missions of on-going Bank-financed projects to ensure compliance with agreed project environmental policies and approaches;
3. Monitor the implementation of environmental safeguard policies and covenants in Bank-financed projects and the commitments of the borrower, project and sub-project proponents;
4. Recommend measures to address environmental safeguards issues and enhance environmental soundness and sustainability of projects and subprojects;
5. Review and provide written comments on environmental assessment reports, environmental management plans and monitoring reports of borrowers, project and subproject proponents and recommend measures to improve them.
6. Assist in building the capacity of the borrower, project and subproject proponents and other stakeholders as regard environmental safeguards; and
7. Provide cross support on the following projects to ensure compliance with environmental safeguard policies and covenants for: Metro Manila Urban Transportation Improvement including Bikeways; National Roads Improvement; Local Government Financial Development; LGU Urban Water Development; Water Districts Development; Rural Power Development; Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood; Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development, Diversified Farm Income and Market Development, Community-Based Resource Management, ARMM Social Fund Project, Third Rural Finance; Kalahi-CIDSS, Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation (LISCOP) and others as needed.

Other Support

8. Assist and provide inputs in the preparation, launch and dissemination of the annual Philippines Environment Monitor (PEM) series.
9. In collaboration with EASES staff, help coordinate and liaise with government agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders to promote and expand the environmental agenda of the World Bank in the Philippines; and
10. Assist and provide inputs in the EIA systems review, safeguards forum and the EASES team's initiatives on building and strengthening the safeguards capacity of the borrower, project and subproject proponents and other stakeholders.

Qualifications:

1. Must have an undergraduate degree in engineering, environmental science or environmental studies and a graduate degree in environmental science, environmental assessment and management or related fields;
2. At least 7 years working experience in the field of environmental science, impact assessment and environmental policy and management in the Philippines;
3. Strong technical and practical knowledge in environmental assessment and management, with a good understanding of the Philippine environmental impact assessment system;
4. Proven capacity to work in multi-disciplinary teams and ability to work with various governmental and non-governmental agencies;
5. Previous working experience with international organizations and donor agencies and knowledge of the World Bank's safeguard policies are desirable;
6. Strong analytical, good client relations and interpersonal skills to work in a diversified international team; and
7. Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 3, 2006. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

**The Human Resource Officer
Box 600 c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City**

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The successful candidate will be responsible for the over-all supervision of the operation and maintenance of all electrical and mechanical equipment used in air conditioning, plumbing, substation, generating sets, sanitation and building facilities. He will also manage the maintenance of cleanliness and attractive appearance of the common areas and in leading the maintenance personnel and operations in accordance with the Company standards.

Male; not over 35 years old; graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead a group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

Male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chains or in sales in the same capacity; ability to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group.

Male; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; ability to lead and motivate staff and foster a team working environment

TREASURY SUPERVISOR

Female; not over 30 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years of supervisory experience in all accounting operations, funds management and treasury functions; familiar with banking operations and Central Bank procedures; has the ability to work in a fast-paced environment; with strong computer skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Female; not over 25 years old; graduate of Accountancy course; fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

***SM Department Store
Human Resource Department
SM City Cagayan De Oro, Barangay Upper Carmen
Cagayan De Oro City***

***Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
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(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out and original and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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Loading Team Leader (Job Reference No: LTL/RS/3623)

Supervise aircraft loading and offloading for Emirates and customers airlines.

Passenger Service Career (Job Reference No: PSA/RS/2170)

Check-in and board passengers ensuring the highest possible level of customer service is delivered to customer airlines.

Load Control Officer (Job Reference No: LCO/KK/3395)

Perform all aircraft weight and balance functions including documentation for Emirates and customer airlines.

Ground Dispatcher (Job Reference No: GD/KK/3396)

Monitor and expedite all facets of aircraft turnaround ensuring the highest possible level of customer service is delivered to Emirates and customer airlines.

Airport Services Agents (Job Reference No: ASA/SK/3387)

Check-in and board passengers ensuring the highest possible level of customer service is delivered to Emirates and customer airlines.

Dnata Cargo (Job Reference No: CS/DT/3333)

We seek Cargo Professionals at all levels to join the dynamic and motivated Dnata Cargo team to keep pace with the growing demands of this industry.

Lead Aircraft Mechanic (Job Reference No: LAM/SN/3429)

Responsible for carrying out maintenance tasks under the guidance of the Licensed Aircraft Engineer on Emirates and third party aircraft in accordance with approved maintenance procedures. We are looking to fill positions in Line, Base Maintenance and Overhaul Workshops.

Production Planning Officer (Job Reference No: PPO/SN/3432)

Plan, organise and arrange work packages prior to maintenance inputs in order to ensure on-time check completion and productivity of resources. Additionally, this would require efficient co-ordination and planning of spares, materials, tools and ground support equipment.

Engineering Repairs Officer (Job Reference No: ERO/SN/3434)

Plan, monitor and review the progress of repair, overhaul and modification of aircraft components in-house or at external repair agencies ensuring the completion of work within the desired time frame and at minimum costs, while providing continuous support to aircraft maintenance requirements.

Maintenance Planning Officer (Job Reference No: PO/SN/3435)

Responsible for planning of aircraft allocation to meet operational schedules, maintenance requirements and in addition, will be required to compile aircraft maintenance work packages.

Stores Supply Officer (Job Reference No: SSO/SN/3436)

While leading a team of stores personnel will be required to provide effective and efficient materials support to the Emirates Maintenance departments, Outstations and third parties airlines, meeting the company requirements and airworthiness standards.

Technical Services Engineer (Job Reference No: TSE/SN/3437)

Work as a specialist within a team providing initial configuration, development and modification input to the Emirates fleet, ensuring high standard of performance and technical despatch reliability. We are looking to fill positions in the following areas: Avionics, IFE, Cabin, Airframe, Structures and Powerplant.

Technical Services Officers (Job reference No: TSO/AE/3421)

Responsible for providing technical support to the Engineers in order to maintain reliability standards for the existing fleet and development or modification input for new aircraft, using new IT tools/digital data.

Passenger Sales Services Agent - Call centre (Job reference No: PS&SA/SN/2634)

Entry level positions available at the Call Centers in Dubai on a full-time and a permanent part-time basis. The selected candidates must have the natural ability to sell Emirates products while meeting the service standards set by the company.

Customer Service Agents - Skywards (Job reference No: CSA/KM/3684)

Handle calls from base level members and general programme inquiries, plus operational functions associated with members account. Telemarketing, to obtain additional sales, and feedback from our customers, on their total Emirates experience.

Pricing Distribution Coordinator - Revenue Optimisation (Job reference No: PDC/SC/3703)

Create, update and manage Emirates electronic distribution of passenger fares and rules though ATPCO (Airline Tariff Publishing Company) to all travel trade through major GDS/CRS (Worldspan / Galileo / Sabre / Amadeus / SITA / Abacus / Infini / Axes / Sky Travel), including Emirates Online (EOL), and major e-commerce channels worldwide.

Recruitment Professionals (Job reference no: RO/LF/2748)

Independently manage the recruitment process, consult with department managers over their short and longer term staffing needs and deliver tailored recruitment solutions.

Finance Professionals (Job reference no: FC/JB/2066)

Qualified accountants for various posts required with specialisation in the areas of Financial Systems and Procedures, Corporate Treasury, Management Accounts, Revenue Accounts, Financial Reporting and Accounting Controls and Corporate Accounts.

Advertising Professional (Job reference No: AO/VU/2259)

Drive, enthusiasm and a clear delivery focus required with a marketing degree and 3 years experience.

Training Specialist - Group Medical Training (Job reference No: T&DO/LF/2744)

Deliver competency based Occupational Health and First Response Training programmes to a multi-cultural audience within the Emirates Group. The training must be aligned to corporate objectives and comply with international standards and regulations.

Industrial Engineers (Job reference No: SIE/PJ/3589)

The Senior Industrial Engineer will undertake projects in performance improvement, process and organisational design and develop new performance improvement strategies with business managers. He/she will also contribute to e-business developments for core business processes and lead project teams of industrial engineers and staff from client departments.

Security Coordinator - Airport Team (Job reference no: SC/KJ/3019)

Security Coordinator for the Airport Team should have a thorough and technical knowledge of all types of passports, Visas and International Travel Documents needed. Only candidates with a high degree of expertise in detecting questionable Passports and Visas will be considered.

If you have good interpersonal skills, are flexible and highly motivated, we invite you to apply online at our website: **www.emiratesgroupcareers.com**. Also submit your updated CV, copy of school credentials, employment & training certificates, passport copy and 2 passport size photographs to:

Industrial Personnel and Management Services Inc.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. Street, Malate, Manila,
E-mail: employment@ipams.com

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TECHNICAL EDITOR

The Technical Editor will be part of the editorial team handling technical editorial operations, coordinating with electronics design industry and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communication, English or Electronic Engineering with at least 4 to 5 years of editorial experience in technology/trade publications. You must have demonstrable technical knowledge of electronics and a keen interest in technology and market trends. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to detail.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
(Indicate job position at subject heading)
Fax: (632) 8924087
Post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

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MARKETING MANAGER

M/F 28 to 35 years old
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Cor Madison St., Mandaluyong City or call 0917-488-7916

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GlaxoSmithKline is a leader in the pharmaceutical industry whose mission is to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.
Our manufacturing plant located in **Cainta, Rizal** is in immediate need of qualified people to occupy the following vacancies:

MICRO-LAB OFFICER/MICROBIOLOGIST:

- 25-35 years old; Male or Female
- College Graduate preferably BS Biology/BS Microbiology.
- With at least 5 years solid working experience in a Pharmaceutical Industry.
- Hands on validation of micro methods
- Provides Technical Support to ensure the full adherence to GMP Micro Program
- Conducts root cause analysis for products failure and initiate corrective measures.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

- 27-35 years old. Male or Female
- College Graduate with at least 3-5 years experience in Procurement functions on a supervisory level.
- Must have proven strong contracting and negotiation skills
- Must have Supplier management and Strategic Purchasing skills
- Ability to communicate, persuade and influence others.
- Organized, analytical and systematic
- Must have an extensive knowledge of the industry and supplier
- Exhibit highest integrity and business ethics
- Can deal with all types of people from all levels of organization.
- Computer Literate – MS, JDE and BPCs

PRODUCTION OFFICER

- 27-35 years old Male or Female
- College Graduate with at least 5 years work experience in a manufacturing set-up. Three (3) years of which should be in a supervisory level gained in Pharmaceutical Industry.
- Familiarity with cGMP standards and Quality Management System (QMS); Lean/Six-Sigma and TQM tools.
- Computer Literate
- Above-average oral and written communication skills.
- Greenbelt/Blackbelt trained is an advantage.

WE also have open positions for Packaging Operators, QC Analyst, and Plant Mechanic. All are required to be College Graduate with 1 year work experience.

Due to the urgency of the above requirements, applicants are requested to send it at:

Global Manufacturing & Supply – Cainta Site
Site Human Resources Department
Don Celso Tuason Avenue
Cainta, Rizal
Email: christine.m.chan@gsk.com • Fax: 6580018

Registered Nurses & Licensed Physical Therapists Opportunities in Florida, USA

- MUST HAVE PASSING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMS OR IN THE PROCESS
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- MUST HAVE VISA SCREEN OR APPLIED FOR

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1. THREE YEARS CONTRACT
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QUALIFIED CANDIDATES MUST SEND:

✓ RESUMÉ WITH 2 PHOTOS 2X2
✓ 3 WORK REFERRENCES (NOTARIZED)
✓ TOR & DIPLOMA + PRC (AUTHENTICATED)
✓ NOTARIZED COPIES OF TOEFL/TSE/EVAL & VISA SCREEN (IF AVAIL)

PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: jadams24@bellsouth.net

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

- female
- passed the CPA licensure exams
- knowledgeable in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate
- knowledgeable in government required remittances & renewals
- with at least (1) year work experience
- should not be more than 35 years old
- good command of written & oral communication skills

The candidate will report directly to the president. She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions.

COMPUTER OPERATOR

✓ Female
✓ Familiar with different MS OS and MS OFfice
✓ Knowledgeable with minor Software, Hardware and LAN troubleshooting
✓ With high analytical skills
✓ Not more than 30 years old
✓ With pleasing personality
*Proficiency in MS Access is a **PLUS**

Contact person: Ms. Desiderio
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
636-6327 to 29

DISCOVERY Reports Limited

Discovery Reports Limited, an international media agency that produces business reports on different countries around the world, is seeking:

TELEMARKETER & RESEARCHER – Conduct internet research on global companies and schedule interviews with leading executives around the world. Candidates should be able to communicate effectively in English, have good computer and research skills and be internet literate.

BUSINESS WRITERS – Transcribe interviews and write articles on global companies. Candidates should have prior business writing experience. Please send samples of published work.

PART-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGNER – Produce newspaper and magazine layouts. Work will be on a project basis. Please send samples of published work.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POSITIONS

- Willing to work from home and able to work different shifts
- Must possess a bachelor's degree
- Willing to learn, assertive, proactive and self-motivated

Please email cover letter and resume, writing sample, published work, to: **info@discoveryreports.com or by fax to: +852.3016.1112**

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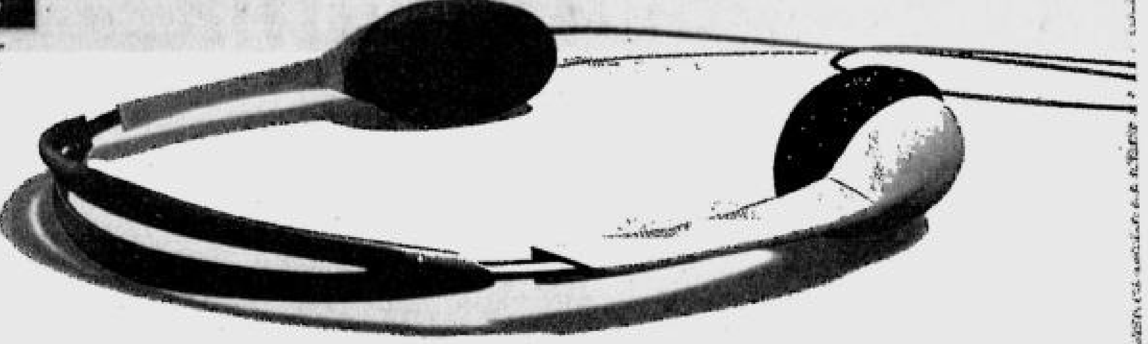

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Mandaluyong City
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www.teleperformance.ph

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent; Technical background is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

Two(2)-Three(3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills; Detail-oriented; Team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

TRAINERS (Technical Account)

Excellent presentation skills; Strong technical background is a must; Call center experience is an advantage; Team-oriented & able to work in a fast-paced environment

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus; Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; Experience as a quality assurance supervisor/analyst is an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; Must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; One (1) year call center experience; Ability to work under pressure, Meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; Demonstrated leadership skills, dependability & initiative; Flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DATA ANALYST

At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; Excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; Excellent organizational and communication skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Excellent time management skills; Strong attention to detail

PROCESSING SPECIALIST

Able to work in a fast-paced environment; Proficient in Microsoft Excel; Excellent time management skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Strong attention to detail

All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer
Interested applicants may bring the following requirements: Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture

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Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
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Please bring your Comprehensive Resume, Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance and 4 passport size ID pictures. Applicants for staff requirements 1, 2, 3 & 6 with previous selling/cashering experience preferred. Staff requirements 3 & 4 also open to fresh graduates.

FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional staff for its Manila office. The ideal candidates should meet the criteria enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR / RECEPTIONIST

- Previous experience as a telephone operator/receptionist for a multinational company
- Knowledgeable in PABX operation
- Excellent English communication skills and telephone ethics
- Highly organized, with the ability to perform a wide range of administrative functions
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Computer literate
- Proactive and with the ability to work under minimum supervision
- Willing and able to work an afternoon / evening shift

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than February 27, 2006:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Visit our website www.ft.com

WE WANT TO SEE YOU AT OUR JOB FAIR !

Ayala Systems Technology, Inc. and its affiliate company, MEDICALL Philippines, Inc. – a specialized American Outsourcing Company providing a wide-range of contact center services, is in the process of business expansion.

We are looking for qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Market Research Interviewer

- **Excellent ability to read, write, speak and understand American English**
- **Candidate must be very detail-oriented and follow directions well.**
- **Qualified candidates must have prior work experience in conducting outbound or inbound phone calls, speaking with consumers.**
- **Above average computer proficiency in basic office software**

Call Center Agent (Nurse)

- **Certified Philippine Nurse is preferred**
- **Above average ENGLISH communication skills (oral & written)**
- **Computer literate**
- **Able to document meticulously**
- **Possess critical thinking skills**
- **Capacity to function independently**
- **Work well in stressful situations**

Medical Transcriptionists

- **Must have at least 1 year experience as a transcriptionist (either medical or legal)**
- **Must be able to type 50 wpm.**
- **The candidate should possess the following skills.**
  - **Excellent English Grammar and Spelling Skills**
  - **Advanced English Punctuation Skills**
  - **Computer Literate**
  - **Proficient in any Word Processor**

Call Center Agent (Sales)

- **Excellent ability to read, write, speak and understand American English**
- **Qualified candidates must have prior work experience in conducting outbound or inbound phone calls for sales or marketing activities.**
- **Above average computer proficiency in basic office software**

All Positions REQUIRE the following General Qualifications:

- **College graduate**
- **Willingness to work flexible shifts**
- **Solid work ethic and Professional work attitude**

Interested applicants are invited to our Job Fair on February 20, 2006, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.
Job Fair location will be at the ground floor of the 88 Corporate Center bldg., Valero cor. Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City (across Paseo Center).

You may also e-mail your application letters, together with a comprehensive resume, to HR@medicall.us.

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Your Prescription for Healthcare Communications

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'My assigned mentor refuses to see me!'

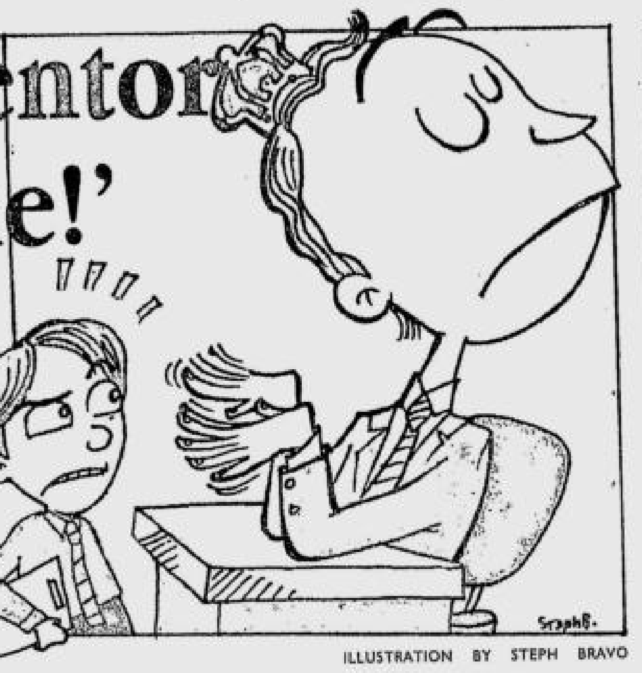

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

I AM AN HPP (HIGH POTENTIAL person) in our marketing organization. About three months ago, our HR Director informed me that Mr. X, Finance Director, had been assigned to me as my mentor in finance. She told me that Mr. X had been informed about this and had accepted to be my mentor.

The HR Director arranged for the three of us to meet on a specific dates. But Mr. X failed to show up. With our HR Director's nod, I decided to catch Mr. X in his office. I asked him if I might take a few minutes of his time since we had not been able to have a formal meeting in the presence of the HR Director. His reaction to my request was icy silence, something that surprised me. Embarrassed, I asked for an appointment to see him at a later day when he would be free. Without even looking at me, he told me to see his secretary to make the appointment. I felt so demeaned by his attitude and behaviors.

I talked to our HR Director about this incident. She was sympathetic and supportive of me, advised me to bide my time, and to wait for her to talk to Mr. X herself. But I am determined not to have anything to do with Mr. X anymore.

Is it necessary for an HPP to have a formal mentor, i.e., one assigned by the organization? Can I not look around for an expert in finance outside of our organization, and have him or her mentor me? Or can I simply just read books on and surf the Internet for finance matters? How about if I enroll in a university and just take formal courses in finance?

Mr. Frustrated HPP

I wrote a series of articles on mentoring published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer from April to May 2003 in this section. These articles were among those published in my book published by New Day Publishers last year entitled "Managing Your Career To The Top." I will quote pertinent portions to respond to your present and future needs because someday, you will also be appointed to mentor talented persons.

Even if a mentor doesn't get any additional financial reward for taking an HPP under his or her wing, the rewards are both psychic and spiritual. Among the psychic rewards are the following:

- Recognition by the organization that the person has an expert status in his or her profession and has the mandate to contribute to the organization's stability and growth by preparing younger talented persons to take future leadership roles.
- Mentor's realization that he or she has the capacity to share and to give, without expecting any material return, from the protégée or from the organization.
- Mentor experiences joy and fulfillment when he or she sees the protégée showing increasing signs of competence and being able to demonstrate these.
- Feeling of pride when the protégée is promoted to a high position in the organization and being able to use what the mentor had shared with him or her.

Spiritual benefits

The spiritual benefits to a mentor are as follows:

- God is giving the mentor the opportunity to share with others the talents he or she has received from Him. On Judgment Day, God will ask the experts for an accounting of the talents entrusted to them. We perform a stewardship role on the talents and expertise God has given to us. These are to be used not merely for our family's gain but to be shared with others so that these increase tenfold. (See Luke 19:13-26)
- Mentors are able to "pay back" to the profession what they had received from those who had mentored them in the past.
- Experts see mentoring as their mission in life for which God had equipped them.
- Mentors start a circle that does not stop. Research shows that those who had been mentored and who have had happy experiences with their mentors tend to be disposed and to be eager to mentor others also. And so the circle grows.

(To be continued next week.)

(Ms Santamaria has a Ph.D in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. Send feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.*)*

Teamwork

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IT IS SO MOVING TO PICTURE HOW THE PARALYTIC IN TODAY'S GOSpel got cured by Jesus in spite of almost insurmountable difficulties; his friends worked as a team to get him to the healing touch of the Lord. I could just imagine the perfect teamwork of those people who "opened the roof" and broke through it and then "let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying." Such a difficult maneuver could be easily done nowadays by just a single high-tech, automated and fully mechanized gadget. But I suppose the amazement we have for the marvels the modern gadgets can do would not be as great as that which we would feel in seeing the "miracles" a group of people can cause just by working harmoniously as a team.

Teamwork, it seems to me, continues to be an irreplaceable wonder in the workplace even in this age of modern technology. It brings about creativity in people who try to employ all their talents, including the "hidden ones" in order to come up with solutions to problems in the work. The spirit of teamwork can bring out the best in people, which a sophisticated machine designed to do complex tasks could possibly stifle in a worker-operator who may just be dependent on it. Working as a team develops the sense of unity and friendship among the workers, thus making work and the workplace pleasing and worth appreciating.

The wonders of creativity, unity and friendship—inspired by the spirit and example of Jesus—become evident when the workers share ideas and combine energies together. Thus, work and the workplace contribute significantly to the healing of all kinds of "paralysis" in them. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Mk. 2: 1-12

Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

Comparing effects

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

READING TODAY'S GOSPEL I CAN'T HELP BUT COMPARE JESUS' times with ours—and what people would do to get close to the Top Honcho. Imagine boring a whole in the roof just to get to Jesus, the satisfier of their needs! When the need is that great, people do become creative, indeed! Now, imagine our times, and observe what people in our workplace would do in order to get close to the Big Boss, the godfather for our wants! Endless are the ways, and varied are the styles, depending on circumstances. And I've seen them all in one workplace. Some "make *sipsip*" and kowtow to every whim of the boss. Some anoint themselves as "informers," passing on to the boss every dirt unearthed at work. Some try to be extra nice to the boss's wife and kids, or m om or mistress or whoever they perceive to have control over him. Some show off their talents—like baking, and regularly shower the boss with his favorite cakes. Some try to impress him with their brilliance and offer "free consultation services" to the boss. And some would do all of the above and more (or worse), just to catch the boss' eye—and of course to eventually get they want from him, which in all likelihood would be material things.

That's where the difference lies: whereas people then would destroy a roof to get the needed healing from Jesus, we in the third millennium would worm our way to the top guy's heart to secure our career, to get ahead of others, to gain promotion without pain, or in any case, to get what we want, not what we need. The effects are poles apart, too. When the paralytic regains his power to walk through the forgiveness of his sins, he becomes grateful. When we succeed in getting what we want from our boss, we become, more often than not, greedy. Which of the two gives lasting happiness? (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

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TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.

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JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.

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ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center

There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas among people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others.This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and all other people who support your comapny like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the castaways in the organization.

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3rd Quarter Run: Tools for the New Workplace
July 26 - Knowledge Management: Turning Knowledge Into Organizational Wisdom; July 27 - Using Heart for Successful Change Efforts; July 28 - Strategic Alliance Building: Collaborating With Your Competitors and Winning
4th Quarter Run: Breakthrough Thinking for the New Workplace
Nov. 15 - Grab All The Market All The Time; Nov. 16 - Applying Creative Thinking for Workplace Challenges; Nov. 17 - Making Innovations Happen in Your Company

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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

FEBRUARY 19, 2006

1

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

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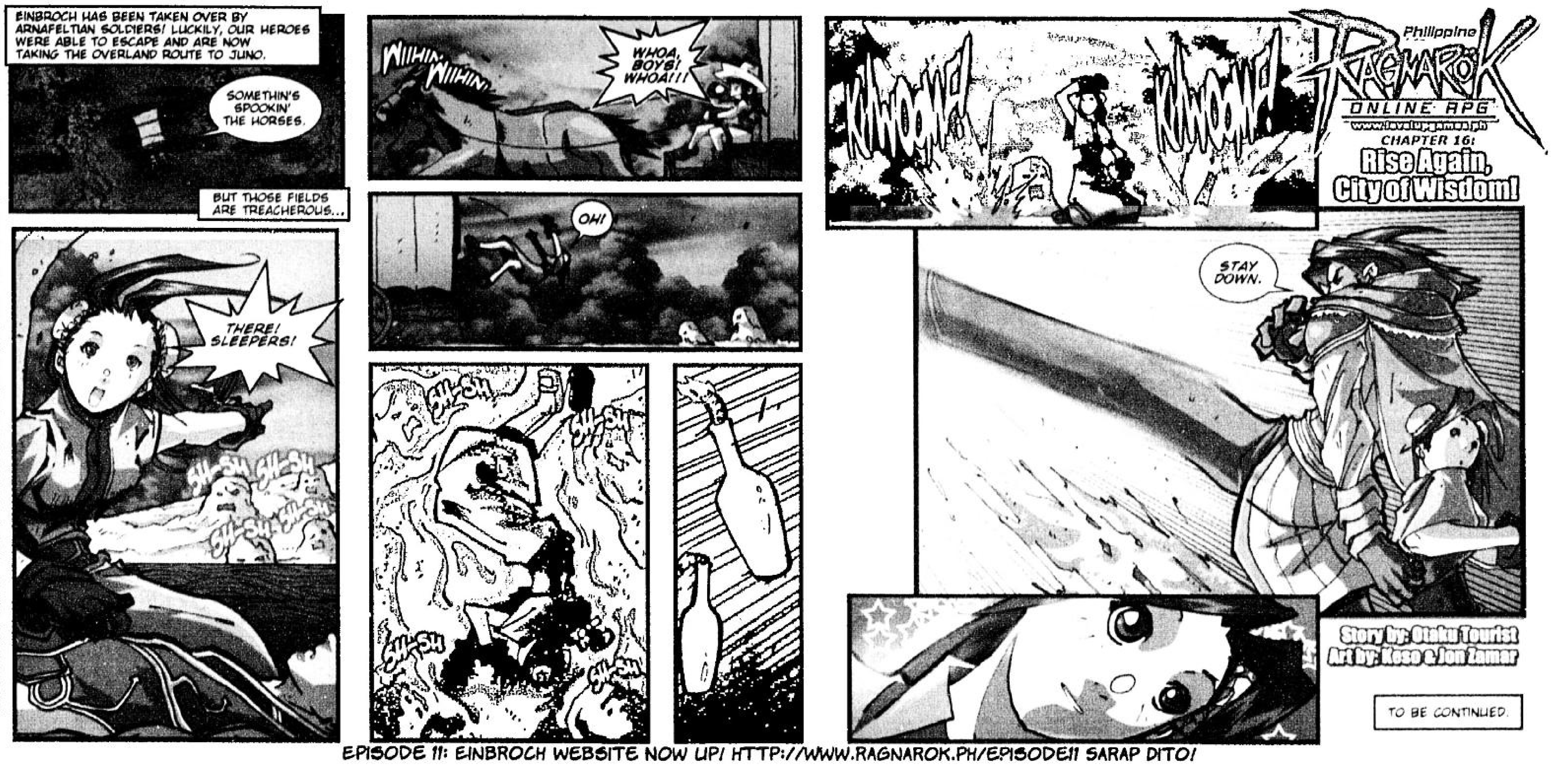
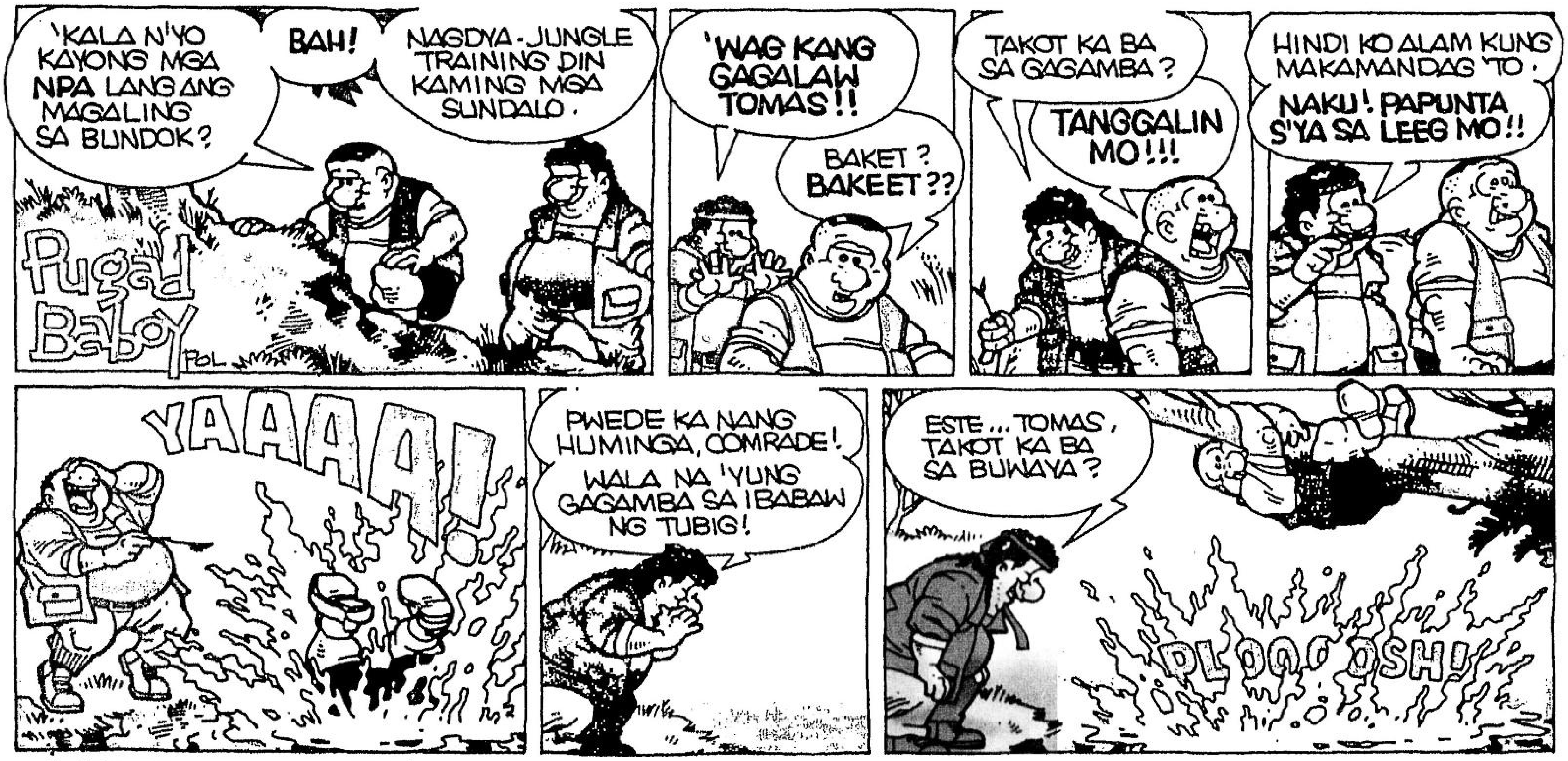

EINBROCH HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY ARNAFELTIAN SOLDIERS! LUCKILY, OUR HEROES WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE AND ARE NOW TAKING THE OVERLAND ROUTE TO JUNO.
SOMETHIN'S SPOOKIN' THE HORSES.
BUT THOSE FIELDS ARE TREACHEROUS...
WIIHIN WIIHIN
WHOA, BOYS! WHOA!!!
OH!
THERE! SLEEPERS!
SH-SH SH-SH SH-SH SH-SH
SH-SH SH-SH SH-SH SH-SH
KWOOM! KWOOM!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 16:
Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
STAY DOWN.
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: Keso & Jon Zamar
TO BE CONTINUED.

EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


'KALA N'YO KAYONG MGA NPA LANG ANG MAGALING SA BUNDOK?
BAH!
NAGDYA-JUNGLE TRAINING DIN KAMING MGA SUNDALO.
Pugad Baboy
POL
'WAG KANG GAGALAW TOMAS!!
BAKET? BAKEET??
TAKOT KA BA SA GAGAMBA?
TANGGALIN MO!!!
HINDI KO ALAM KUNG MAKAMANDAG 'TO.
NAKU! PAPUNTA S'YA SA LEEG MO!!
YAAAA!
PWEDE KA NANG HUMINGA, COMRADE!
WALA NA 'YUNG GAGAMBA SA IBABAW NG TUBIG!
ESTE... TOMAS, TAKOT KA BA SA BUWAYA?
PLOOOOSH!

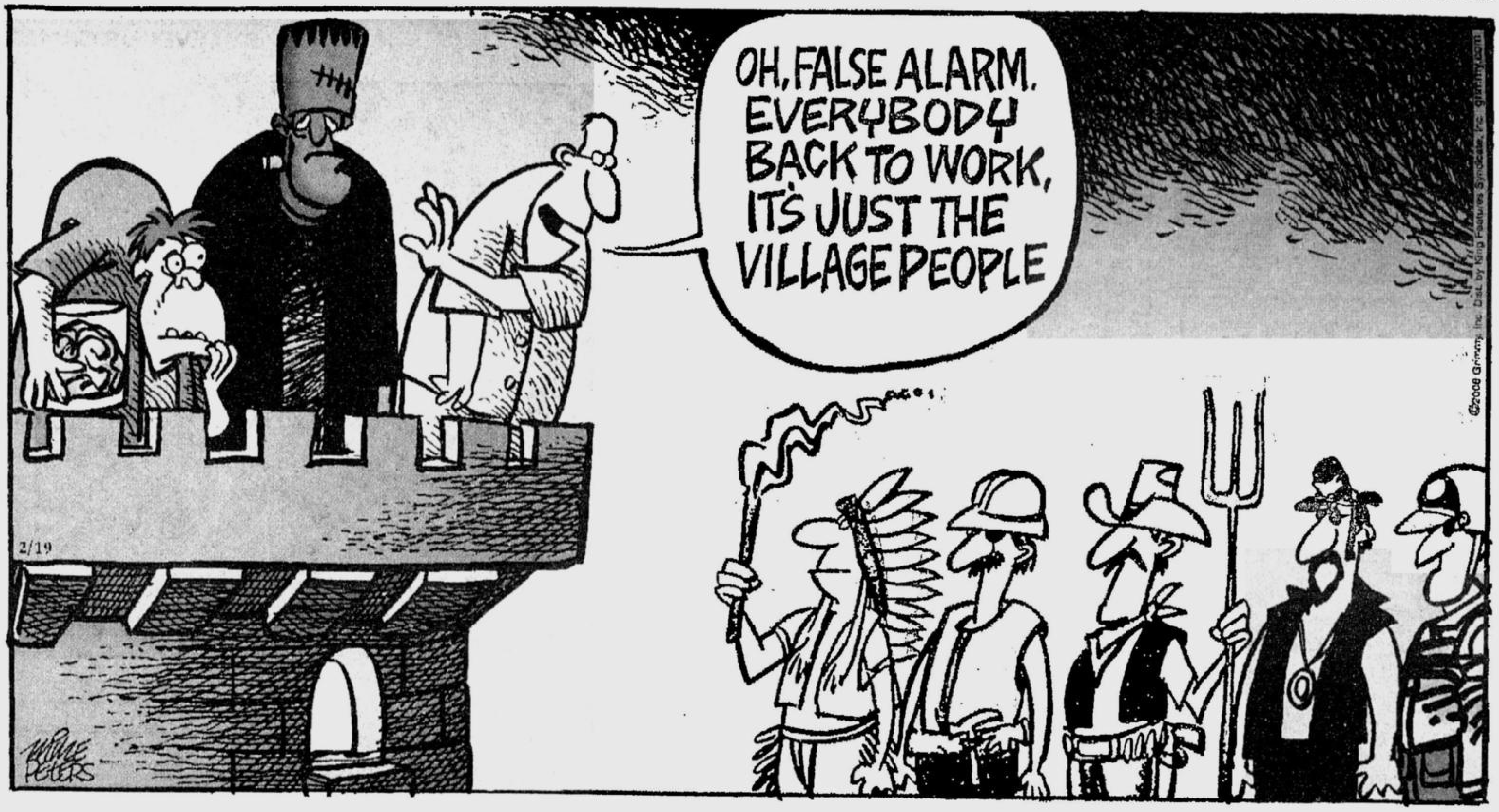
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

① Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: a.Ragnarok b.Moomoo hunters c.Garfield d.Mothergoose and Grimm e.Pugad Baboy f.Inday Wanda g.Zits h.Full House

② Text **inquirer life name/age/city/letter of your choice/reason for your answer** to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH, FALSE ALARM. EVERYBODY BACK TO WORK, IT'S JUST THE VILLAGE PEOPLE
2/19
MIKE PETERS

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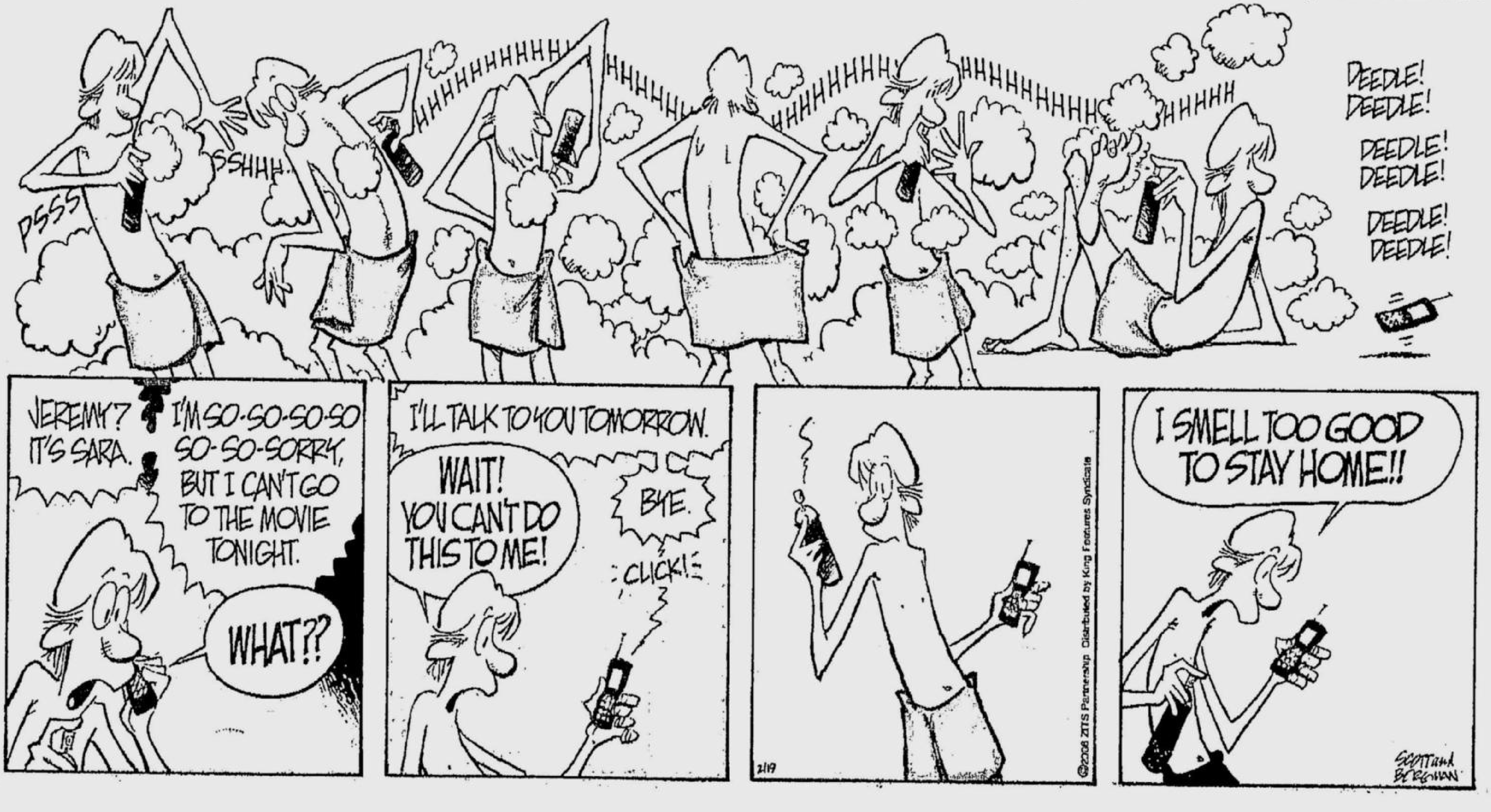
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


PSSS
SSHHH
HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
DEEDLE! DEEDLE!
DEEDLE! DEEDLE!
DEEDLE! DEEDLE!
JEREMY? IT'S SARA.
I'M SO-SO-SO-SO SO-SO-SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIE TONIGHT.
WHAT??
I'LL TALK TO YOU TOMORROW.
WAIT! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
BYE.
CLICK!
2/19
I SMELL TOO GOOD TO STAY HOME!!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

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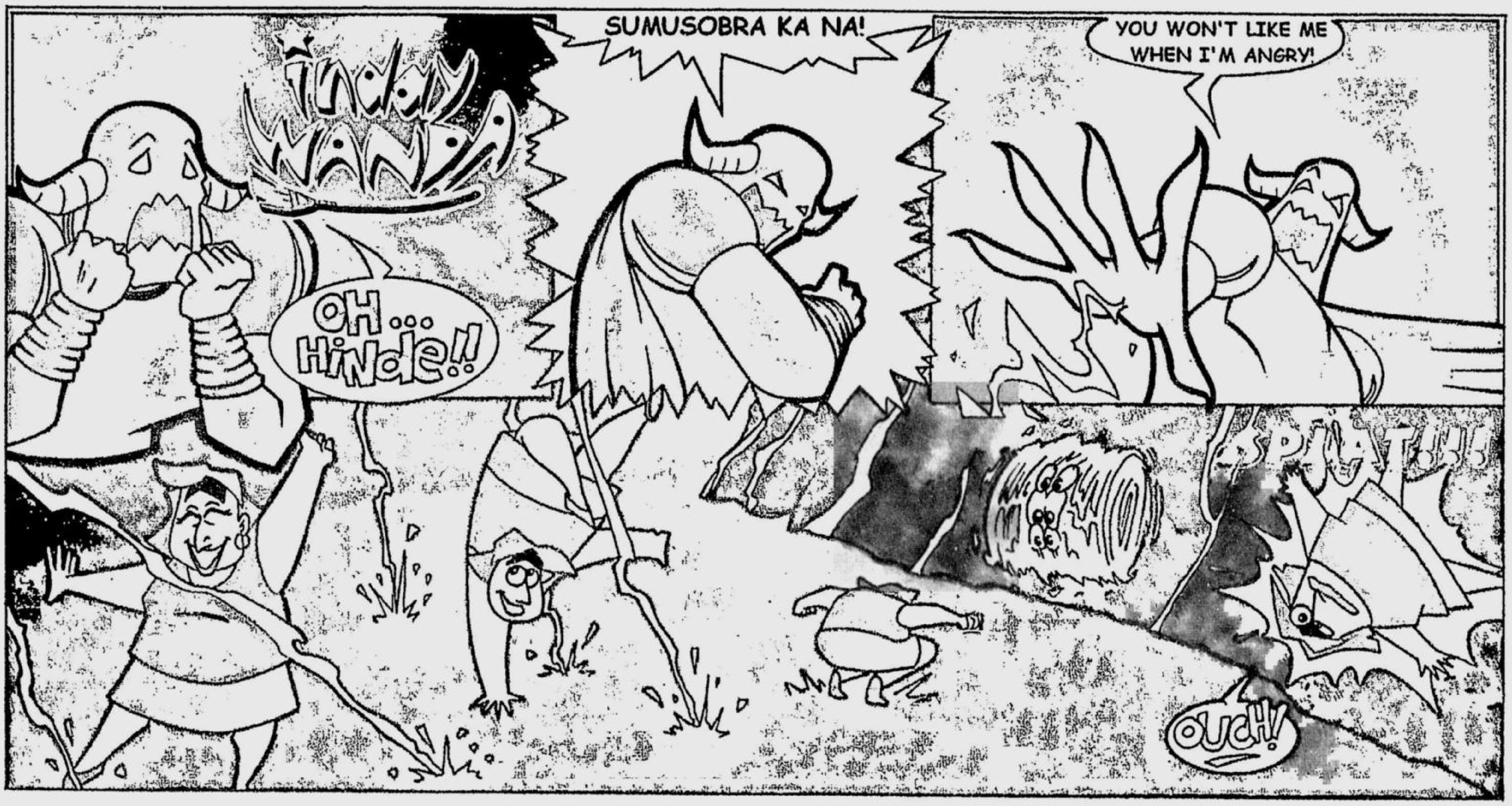
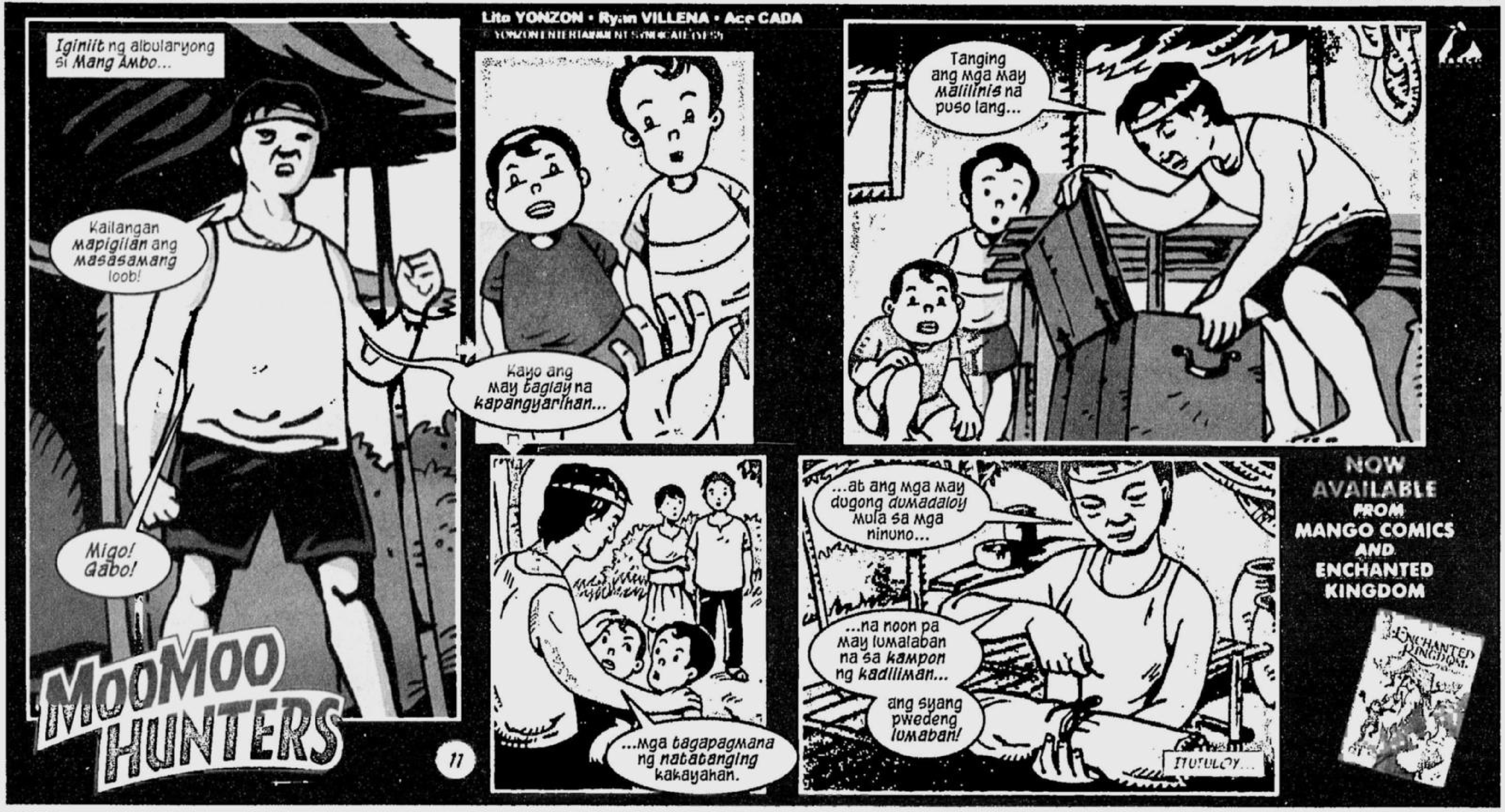
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
OH... Hinde!!
SUMUSOBRA KA NA!
YOU WON'T LIKE ME WHEN I'M ANGRY!
SPLAT!!!
OUCH!

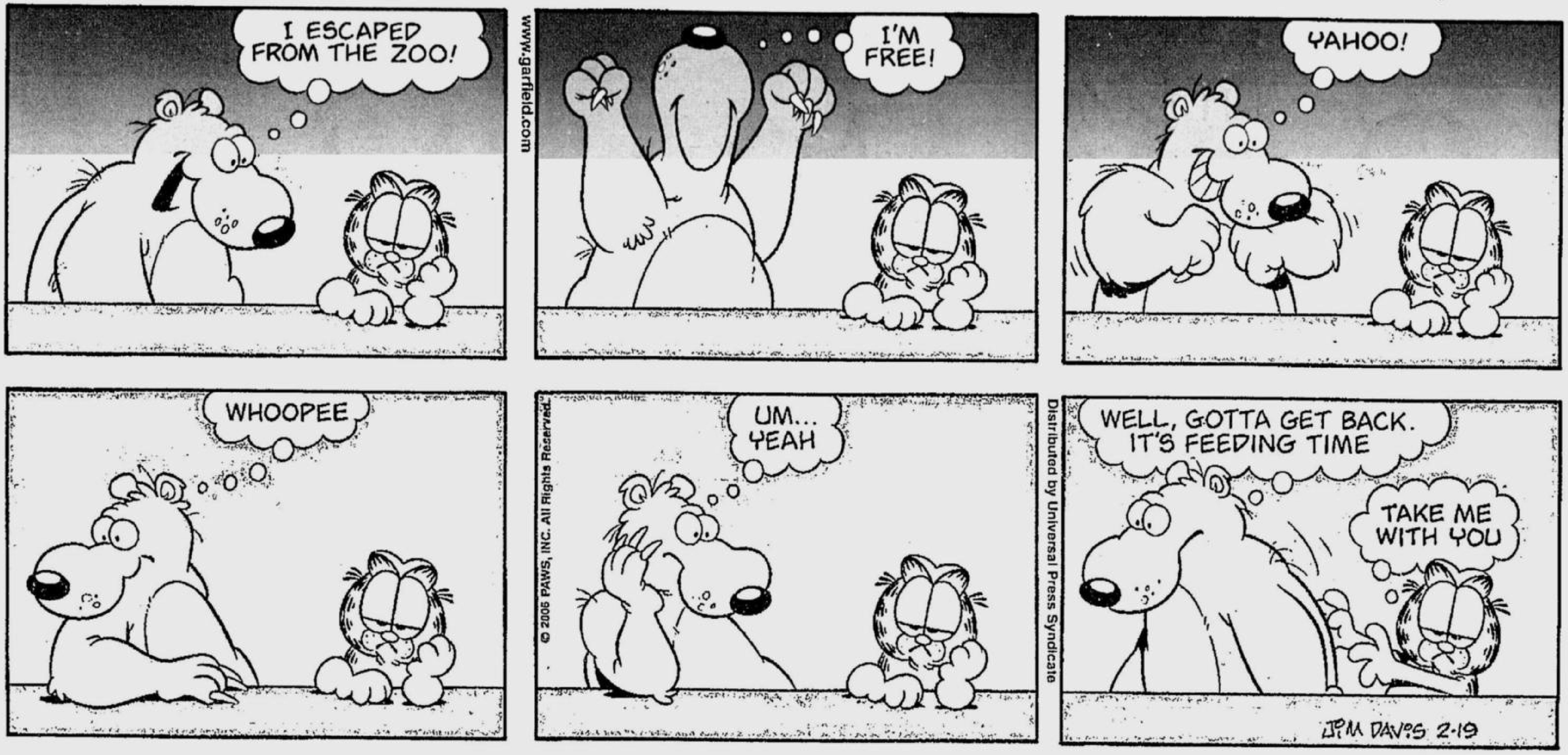
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)
Iginiit ng albularyong si Mang Ambo...
Kailangan mapigilan ang masasamang loob!
Migo! Gabo!
MooMoo HUNTERS
11
Kayo ang may taglay na kapangyarihan...
Tanging ang mga may malilinis na puso lang...
...mga tagapagmana ng natatanging kakayahan.
...at ang mga may dugong dumadaloy mula sa mga ninuno...
...na noon pa may lumalaban na sa kampon ng kadiliman...
ang syang pwedeng lumaban!
ITUTULOY...
NOW AVAILABLE FROM MANGO COMICS AND ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Enchanted Kingdom

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I ESCAPED FROM THE ZOO!
I'M FREE!
YAHOO!
WHOOPEE
UM... YEAH
WELL, GOTTA GET BACK. IT'S FEEDING TIME
TAKE ME WITH YOU
JIM DAVIS 2-19
www.garfield.com
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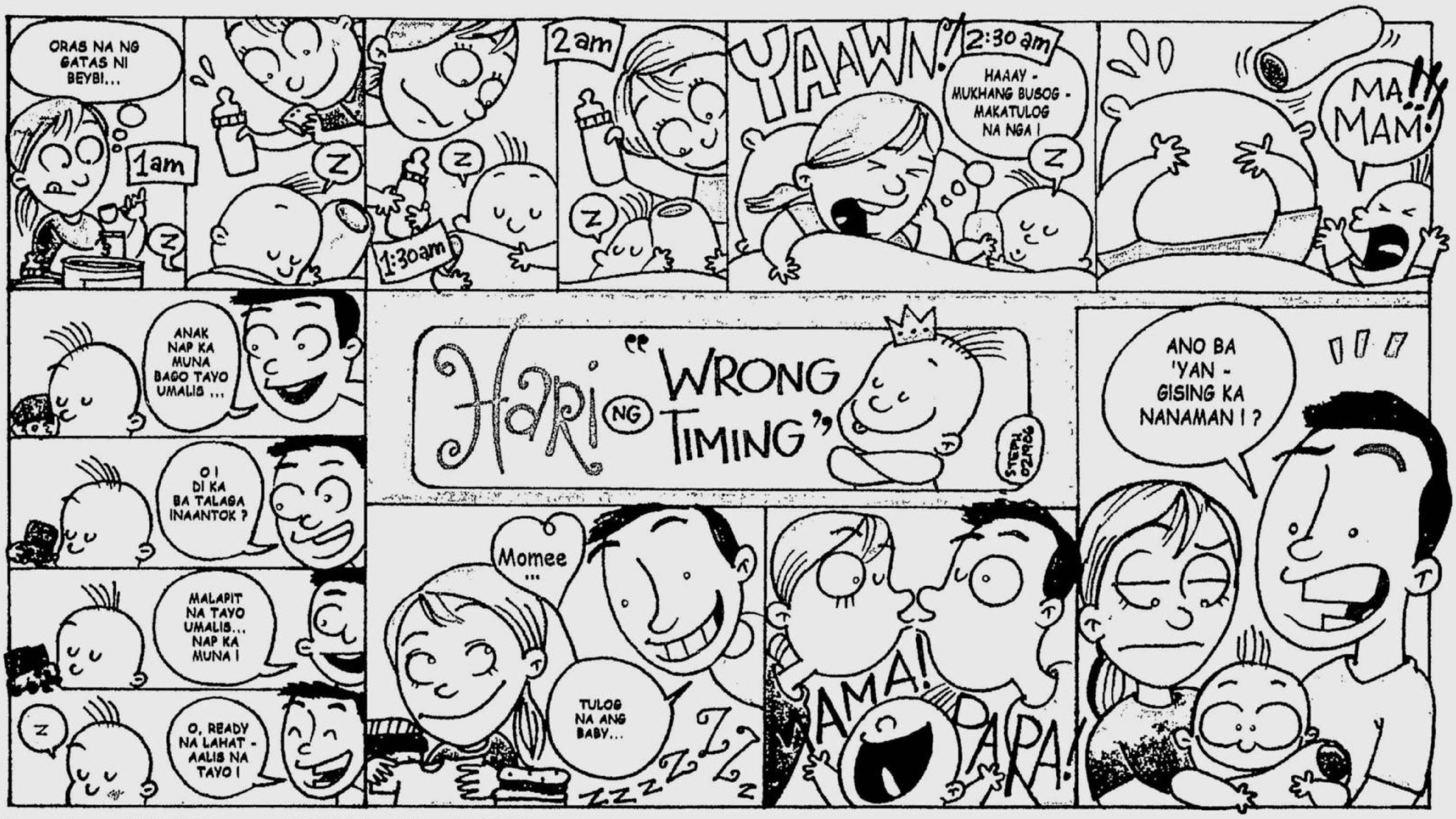
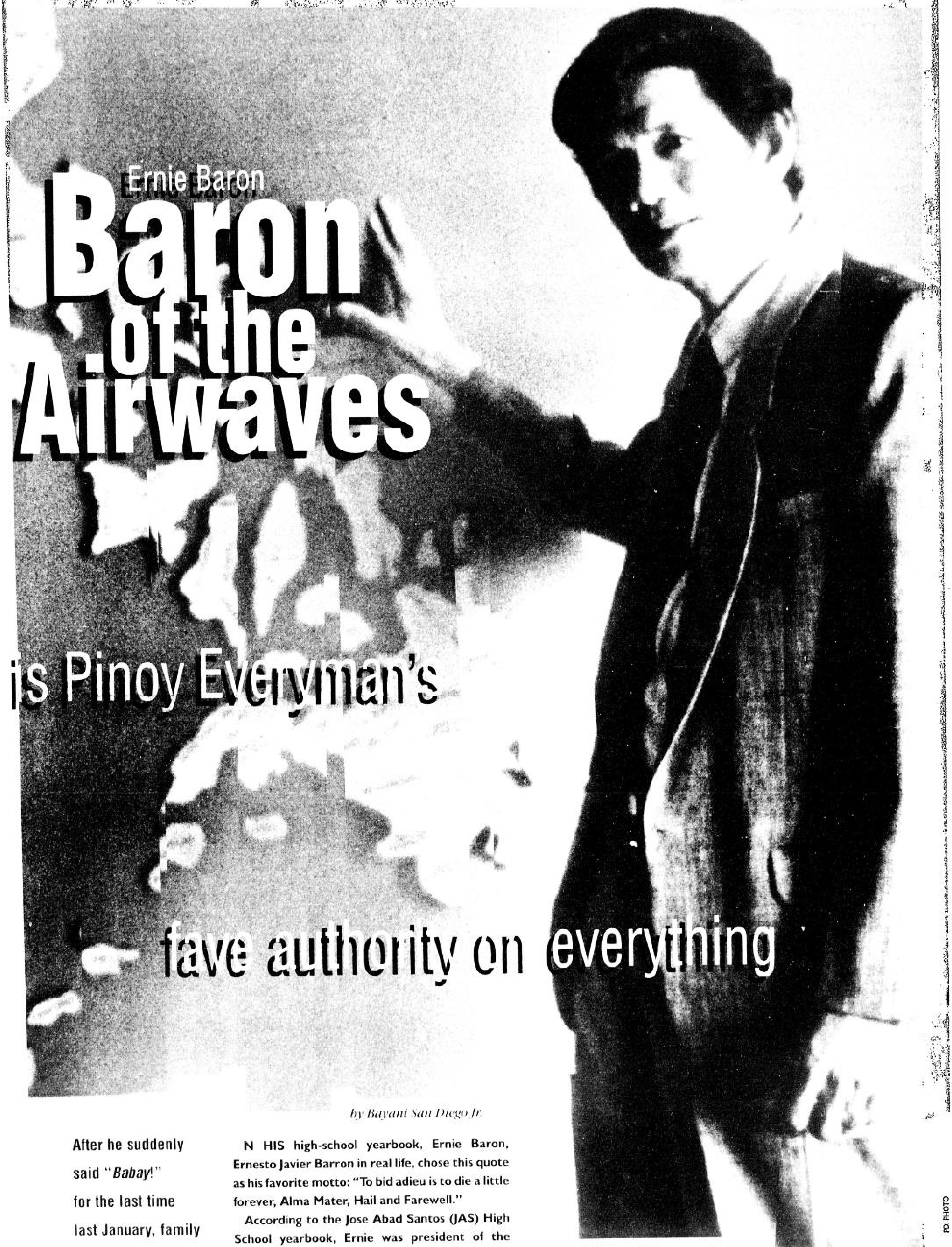
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


ORAS NA NG GATAS NI BEYBI...
1am
Z
Z
1:30am
Z
2am
Z
YAAWN!
2:30 am
HAAAY - MUKHANG BUSOG - MAKATULOG NA NGA!
Z
MA!!! MAM!
ANAK NAP KA MUNA BAGO TAYO UMALIS ...
O! DI KA BA TALAGA INAANTOK ?
MALAPIT NA TAYO UMALIS... NAP KA MUNA!
Z
O, READY NA LAHAT - AALIS NA TAYO!
Hari NG "WRONG TIMING"
STEPH
Momee ...
TULOG NA ANG BABY...
ZZZZZZ
AMA! PAPA!
ANO BA 'YAN - GISING KA NANAMAN ! ?

unday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Ernie Baron

Baron of the Airwaves

is Pinoy Everyman's fave authority on everything

PDI PHOTO

by Bayani San Diego Jr.

After he suddenly said "*Babay*!" for the last time last January, family and colleagues remember the hardworking broadcaster as "Walking Encyclopedia," weatherman, herbalist

N HIS high-school yearbook, Ernie Baron, Ernesto Javier Barron in real life, chose this quote as his favorite motto: "To bid adieu is to die a little forever, Alma Mater, Hail and Farewell."

According to the Jose Abad Santos (JAS) High School yearbook, Ernie was president of the Morning Student Council, vice president of the Supreme Student Council, president of the Tagalog Club and Tagalog editor of the school organ.

Clearly, Ernie had a flair for multi-tasking. As a grown-up, the campus overachiever later led a multi-hyphenated life as weatherman, inventor, herbalist and "Walking Encyclopedia."

Baron, 65, died suddenly last Jan. 23. It was his daughter Shirley Barron-Hao who found him unconscious on his bed, the victim of a suspected heart attack. Ernie and Shirley's mother had separated when their child was very young.

"He graduated with high honors from JAS," recalled Shirley. "He was a wide reader. He loved books. He had a photographic memory. He could recall the tiniest details of his childhood, like watching his father harvest *atis* fruits from their hut's window."

Poverty, she said, "inspired my dad to do well in school. His father was a caretaker in an uncle's fishpond—*nag-iiras sa palaisdaan*. "But he later lost that job. His mother, who was from Navotas, made *patis* (fish sauce), and my dad helped her sell it."

The Barrons, who lived in Niog, Bacoor, Cavite, could only send one among seven children to school. That scholarly privilege naturally went to Ernie, who traveled from Cavite to Pasay City every school day.

To page 2

The Pain of Mrs. Wycoco *p.3*

His Mainstream Pinoy Reggae, *p.4*

Her Toys and Her Art, *p.5*

Ernie...*from page 1*

Sometimes he had to walk to school. "His daily allowance was 40 centavos," Shirley recounted. "Thirty centavos for his transportation, and the remaining 10 centavos he saved because it wasn't enough to buy softdrinks."

His dream then was to take up Foreign Service. Instead he studied Banking and Finance at the Far Eastern University, a course he didn't finish because broadcasting soon beckoned.

"He was among the topnotchers in the broadcasters' exam, though," Shirley said.

Nestor "Nitoy" Escaño, then general manager of the Manila radio division of the pre-martial law ABS-CBN, described *Ka* Ernie as "a unique talent."

"He was recommended by Ric Tierro, our program director," he said. "I was the one who signed Ernie's appointment papers in 1965."

On his own

The station was then looking for an announcer it could pit against the legendary Rafael "Paeng" Yabut. "Other people in the station remarked that they sounded similar, and that we could promote him as the new Paeng. I refused, because Ernie could stand on his own. He had his own style."

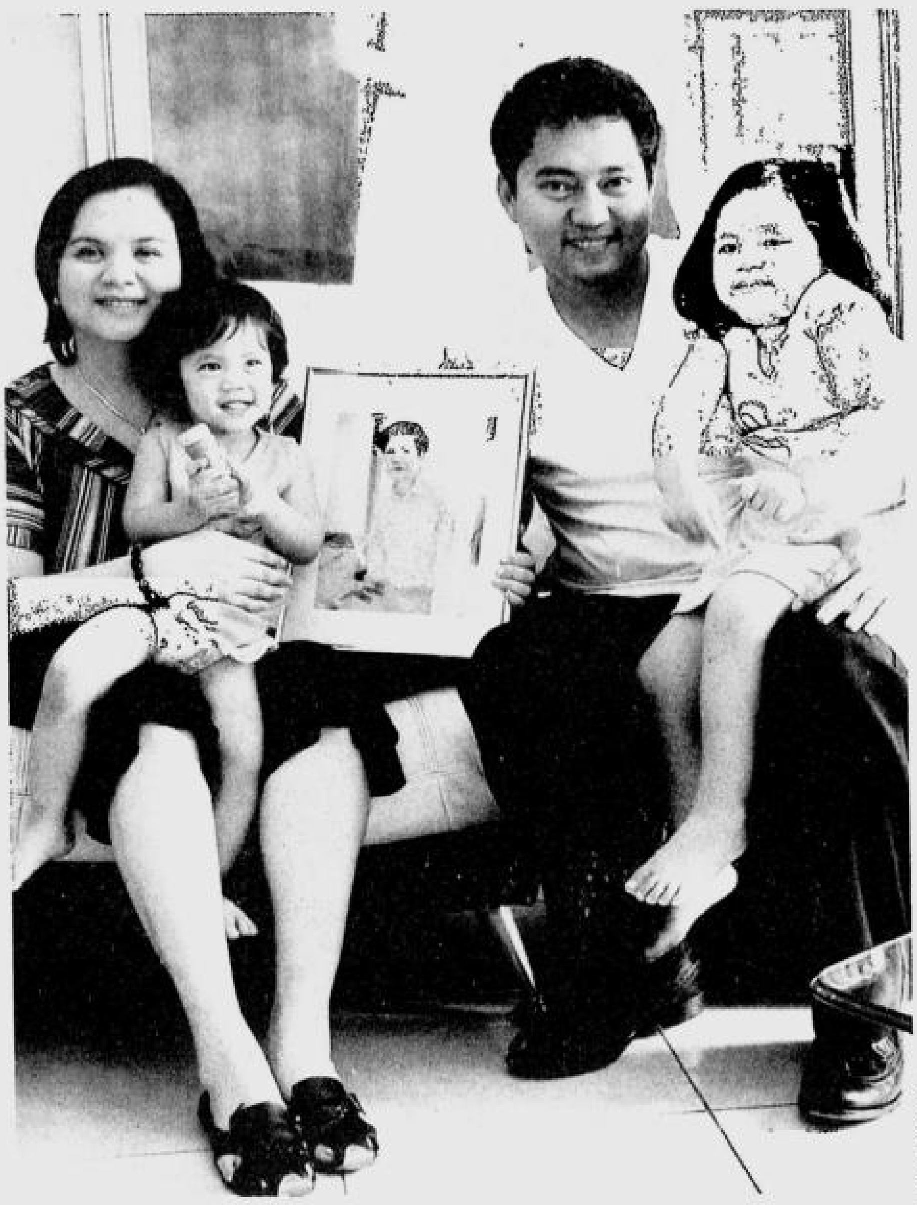
Nitoy was proven correct. "Ernie later developed his own programming concept: The Walking Encyclopedia."

The last time they had a phone chat was a month before he passed away. "We talked about professionalism and total commitment," he said. "That's one thing I admired in him: In spite of his fame, he remained humble."

His knack for Tagalog and his vocal kinship with Paeng Yabut led him to the top of the broadcasting ladder, *Ka* Ernie's media peers agreed.

"He wrote *balagtasan* for our show," said his first radio partner, Nelly Natividad-Valdez. "He pioneered 'The Balagtasan on Air.' He was very dedicated. He commuted from Cavite to the radio station across Tutuban in Manila."

As a block timer in the early 1960s, she said, "he paid the station P10 per hour and he also solicited commercials for our show."



RODEL ROTONI

Daddy's girl: Shirley and husband John Hao with daughters Lia and Lei

Ernie and Nelly met as students, as they were both active in the church-based youth organization of the Iglesia ni Kristo, Kapisanan ng Maligayang Pagtatagumpay.

She described the young Ernie as a charmer. "He looked like the 1980s matinee idol Alfie Anido," she said. "But as I expressed in the poem I wrote for his wake: *'Hindi kami talo! Hindi niya ako bata!'* (We were never a couple. I was never his girl.)"

She soon quit the radio biz and settled down with Justice Amado Valdez. Over four decades later, Ernie and Nelly again crossed paths after her husband had joined dzMM, ABS-CBN's AM station.

"He invited us to his 40th anniversary party as a broadcaster, held in his Muntinlupa home last August," she said. "All his friends were there—his 'Knowledge Power' and dzMM families."

It was as if he was saying goodbye, Nelly said.

He played host to the hilt, she remembered. "He kept piling up food on my plate. He kept giving me *kakanin* (native delicacies). That was the last time I saw him."

Another radio colleague at that August reunion was Cesar Nucum, more popularly known as "Kuya Cesar."

"He was caring, always concerned about his friends," he described *Ka* Ernie. "Once, he gave me honey and garlic, for stamina *daw*."

They met in 1965 as neophytes in the old ABS-CBN's Radyo Balita.

"He was a genius," Kuya Cesar said. "On air, he translated English newspapers into Tagalog."

Super endorser: Ernie pushes Taheebo herbal tea

When ABS-CBN was padlocked by the martial-law regime in 1972, Ernie was among the many left jobless.

"He had to start from scratch," Shirley recalled. "He couldn't even touch his savings after the bank was closed down."

During martial law, Ernie was hired by Kuya Cesar, station manager of dwAN. "That was when he started his *'Ginintuang Kaalaman'* concept, which evolved into 'Knowledge Power,' " Kuya Cesar said. "He made use of his knowledge of herbal medicine to help his listeners."

Team player: With former 'TV Patrol' co-anchors Frankie Evangelista, Tin-Tin Bersola and Mel Tiangco

In 1986, when ABS-CBN reopened, *Ka* Ernie rejoined his old co-workers Dely Magpayo, Mario Garcia and Noli de Castro, among others.

According to Kuya Cesar, *Ka* Ernie's later success as ABS-CBN's resident Walking Encyclopedia was much-deserved. "He had been a long-suffering radio talent before he got his endorsement deals for Jollibee and Casino rubbing alcohol. A brand of TV antenna was even named after him."

Flip side

The flip side of celebrity, however, was controversy.

Kuya Cesar recalled that hecklers would often ask *Ka* Ernie silly questions on air.

Of course, he got impatient, short-tempered even, as media critic Rito Asilo pointed out in an INQUIRER article in 2001.

Only a few people, however, knew that the herbalist had been diagnosed as a diabetic in 1992. "It was hereditary," Shirley said.

When he was asked a particularly tough question at a dzMM presscon two years ago, he walked out, recalled entertainment writer Danny Vibas.

Colleagues: The young Ernie (right) with fellow broadcaster Rod Navarro

"I asked him why he was dispensing medical advice on air when he wasn't a doctor," Danny owned up. "He answered that those who consulted him were usually the hopeless cases that doctors had already given up on. He even recalled that he was almost sued by a listener. But that case didn't prosper."

"I wouldn't say he was practicing medical quackery," INQUIRER columnist and medical anthropologist Michael Tan said of *Ka* Ernie. "It's just that in this age of mass information, we have all kinds of new 'practitioners' of health and medicine. He made his name in media as a general source of information; it was inevitable that he would come to be regarded as an authority on health care as well. Given the expenses now of medical care, mass media offers an attractive alternative. His advice was 'free' and often tied to the endorsements of his products.

"My opinion on him is the same for other alternative healers, including the religious who practice faith healing: It's all right to consult them, but it shouldn't be at the cost of disregarding biomedical interventions." Tan says. "There's always the risk that an ailment becomes more serious, perhaps even deadly, because of these delays."

Even after death, Ernie Baron wasn't spared from intrigues.

On the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition," starlet Keanna Reeves joked, *"Pito-Pito* herbal tea didn't help Ernie Baron."

Shirley remained undaunted. "Of course he would eventually fall ill and die," she addressed her father's critics. "He wasn't God. Even doctors get sick and pass away."

Obviously, Shirley is her dad's staunchest supporter.

Best form

"I'm proud of him," she said. "As a teenager, I was often teased by schoolmates, especially when Vic Sotto started spoofing him as Ernie Barong on his gag show 'TVJ.' My dad told me: You shouldn't get upset. Imitation is the best form of flattery."

The last year of Ernie's life, when his health had taken a turn for the worse, was the most memorable for Shirley. "He was my vaccine. He protected me from all ailments, physical and emotional."

He regaled her with stories on his childhood; she accompanied him on his trips to the hospital. She started seeing him with new eyes. "He often played with his grandchildren, my daughters Lei, 3, and Lia, 1," she said. "After his hospital checkups, he usually brought home *pasalubong* like snacks from Jollibee for my kids. Weeks before his death in January, he asked me to buy a gift for my eldest, whose birthday is this month, February."

He was preparing for the inevitable. *"Parang* premonition," Shirley said. "Weeks before his death, he started writing his autobiography."

Actually, the 65-year-old media icon scribbled down random notes on his youth on two pieces of legal-size bond paper.

"I'm looking for the third page," she said. "He also cleaned out his halfway house in Quezon City and brought his things home to Muntinlupa. Among them was his high-school yearbook."

It was his way of saying farewell. Or as he often said on his show, *"Babay!"*

Ang Manggagamot Na Biktima Ng SARS

Marahil hindi na namin malalaman
Ang tunay mong pangalan.
Dalawang malaking letra lamang sa diaryo
Ang nagpakilala sa iyo, ikaw
Na bayani sa panahong nalilikha
Ang mga bagong virus
Sa digmaan ng tao laban isa't isa,
Ng tao laban sa kalikasan,
At sa kumplikadong proseso ng manipulasyon
Lumulundag ang mga bagong nilalang
Mula sa mga laboratoryo ng mga kriminal,
Lumilitaw sa mga ospital ng digdig
Mula sa walang hanggang hangin at kalawakan
Sa pagitan ng mga bansa, mga bayan,
Magkakapitbahay, makakamag-anak, Magkakapatid. At ikaw
Na handang tumulong, bukas
Na bukas sa lahat ng hikbi at hinaing, ikaw
Na bukas ang puso at bukas ang lahat
Ng butas ng balat
Sa lahat ng uri ng mikrobyo
Ay pinararangalan namin
Sa dalawang letra ng lihim
Ng inyong kabayanihan.

Herminio S. Beltran Jr.

Sandali

Sumampa tayo sa escalator patungo sa restawran,
Magkatabi, pinag-uusapan ang nakapupunding
Mga gawain sa trabaho, ang mga kailangang tupdin
Sa darating na linggo. Ito'y tamang-tamang sandali:
Ikaw sa tabi ko, halos walang tigil sa pagkukuwento
Kung papaanong hindi nagtutugma ang mga numero
Sa mga binabalanseng pormularyo, habang ako,
Walang kagatul-gatol sa pakikinig sa mga litanya mo.
Lumalapat ang balat ng iyong kamao sa aking kuyom
Na kamao at biglang-biglang sumisigid sa sentido
Na hawakan ang kamay mo. Ngunit natitigilan ako.
Sa paligid, isang huni ng isang nagmamaktol na sanggol,
Ang tawanan ng paroo't paritong babae at lalaki,
Ang musika ng tumutugtog na biyolin na humaharana
Sa magsing-irog na pinagliliwanag ang mga mukha
Ng dila ng kandila. Sa dulo ng hagdan, nakaabang
Ang restawran, ang waiter na nagbubukas ng pinto
At bumabati. Agad kang nag-ayos ng iyong kurbata,
Muli ko namang tiningnan ang butones na natanggal
Sa aking polo kanina. Ang Sandali—sandali lamang talaga.

Louie Jon A. Sanchez

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Twists of Fate

by Agnes Prieto

The burden of Loving Wykes too well

Her husband was unfaithful and distant, but she chose to stay as long as she could. Luci Wycoco talks to an old friend about her former life as the wife of the late NBI chief

PDI FILE

Being a wife: Luci and Wykes at their December 1971 wedding; top left, speaking at Wykes' wake

THE PATHS of friends are intertwined more than we know, journeys running parallel yet totally divergent. My friendship with Luci Wycoco is an example of this.

It was Wykes, Luci's late husband, who brought Luci and me together. This was in the early '70s and my husband, Efren, a young lieutenant fresh out of the Philippine Military Academy, would eventually work with Wykes in Malacañang. He was Captain Reynaldo Wycoco from Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, and she was the former Lucila Cajanding, from Malolos, Bulacan.

Even then, Wykes had a certain something that singled him out. I recall seeing him standing in the middle of the parade field at then Camp Olivas in Pampanga, smiling. He struck me as a man in love with the world and all that it had to give—power, prestige, wine, women and song, and particularly women, by Luci's eventual account.

Luci saw the promise in him, but, as she remembers, "It was a promise that he could be more than he was, and I would help him towards achieving that greater man."

In their wedding invitation, she quoted Edna St. Vincent Millay's verse:

"Love in the open hand, nothing but that
Ungemmed, unhidden, wishing not to hurt
As one would bring you cowslips on a hat
Swung from the hand and apples on her skirt
I bring you, calling out as children do
Look what I have... and these are for you"

She would use the same verse for his obituary and the eulogy at his funeral. "Wykes was my life," she admits.

We were terribly young then, young *colegialas* who had married military men living in the shadow of Malacañang. Luci was a Foreign Service graduate from Maryknoll, I was an AB Lit grad from Assumption. There were many young families who lived in the simple bungalows allotted to the Presidential Guards Batallion, and we were into having babies, sharing recipes and trying to fit all our wants and needs into the salaries of our husbands. Luci and Wykes had married on Dec. 30, 1971, Luci's birthday, and they would eventually have four kids: Patricia, Voltaire, Miko and Vladimir. We were so close that we even shared maternity clothes, baby cribs, baby bottles and nappies.

'Sinigang' and suits

Luci was a devoted wife and mother. She taught me how to make *sinigang* (sour broth) from guava and fish—this was Wykes' favorite dish then. She would have his clothes and suits tailored especially; his T-shirts were always in fashion. He was dapper, always looking like he just stepped out of the shower. She loved Wykes so much ("loved him, really, really loved him," she emphasizes), and was not only his lover but a nurturer, mother to his children, a social consultant, fashion adviser and career coach all rolled into one. The kids, too, were well provided for by Luci. More often than not, though, she made do, always taking the back seat.

She took an interest in Wykes' career, having decided that she would forego her own dreams and devote herself to this family. "I would have wanted to go back to school, to build up a career, but Wykes and the kids came first." It was Luci who brought up the idea to Wykes of trying out for the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard. Eventually Imelda Marcos, who was Wykes' big boss, would provide funds for the tuition. Luci's family also chipped in towards making this dream happen.

In an adolescent slum book, Wykes wrote as his ambition, "to become a general." His single-minded focus on success could be traced to his family of origin. The Wycocos were a large brood, all of whom would eventually make their way in the world, helped by big brother Wykes.

Looking back on these halcyon days, I marvel at how simple life was for us. Luci, however, already had an inkling of a side of her marriage that would break her heart again and again. Wykes' dalliances had already begun; hotel receipts, credit card bills, and mysterious phone calls gave her the leads. He was not that discreet.

In 1978, my husband Efren would die in a plane crash. I was pregnant with our youngest. It was Wykes, Efren's direct boss, who called Luci to rush to my side before anyone else came so she could break the news to me. I still remember that rainy late afternoon in September, Luci walking down the road, shaking her head, crying. I thought to myself, oh dear, they've fought again. Little did I know that the tears were for Efren and me.

Later, though we remained bonded, Luci and I would lose touch with each other. I remarried and went to live abroad where I joined the diplomatic corps. My family met Luci and the children in London, where Wykes had been assigned as military attaché. She loved it there, away from the pressures of a military wife's life in Manila.

Back in Manila, Wykes continued his ascent to the top. He was more and more in the newspapers, but when I saw Luci, she was unhappy. As his career flourished, so did his extramarital affairs. She recalls using the alphabet to keep track of all of the girlfriends, from A to Z, "but he did seem to have a preference for the C's," she would comment wryly.

And yet, despite her pain and anger, she continued to love him. "I was in terrible pain, but I guess I loved him," was all she would say. Eventually, she would need an operation from multiple myomas that had enlarged her stomach area. The gynecologist would mention that this was common in women who had problematic relationships with men.

His nature

Luci was feisty and outspoken; she did not mince words, but Wykes was not about to change. "This was his nature, and he could not help it. The social and work environment also supported it," she sadly remarks. There would always be reconciliation attempts, which would fizzle out when another woman came into the picture.

After two decades, Wykes would bring Luci and me together again—at his wake. A call from one of our Malacañang friends would assemble the group. Luci was there, slim and composed. Her face was unlined by age and circumstance—there was no bitterness there, only sorrow. The children were all grown. Patricia, a brilliant economist, had just married, Voltaire was almost done with his masters' degree at Cal State, Vlad had his significant other and Miko had his lovely family. Luci had raised them well.

"It was Miko who was terribly concerned about his father in the afterlife, never letting go of his rosary, praying all the while," Luci relates. He had brought a priest for the last rites, and begged him to clear his father for heaven. The priest asked Miko to confess for his dad, to ask God's forgiveness for him as he lay in a coma.

God could forgive, but could Luci? "I forgave him the moment I saw him lying in a coma, he looked so vulnerable, so pitiful," she relates. She and Wykes had been estranged for the past seven years, but Luci recalls a "swan song" he gave her: An airline ticket to San Francisco to visit Voltaire and to join a Maryknoll school reunion after Pat's wedding in September 2005.

Shortly before his death, Luci had come back from London, feeling it was time for closure, while there was never any talk of separation or annulment. But three days later he would have the stroke. She forgave his never-ending coterie of women, some he would live with for a stretch of time, others for passing moments: beauty queens, media personalities, professionals, some even wives of colleagues.

Luci reveals how she would make friends with some of the women, sharing a common understanding, and yes, perhaps, love for this man. She forgave his neglect of the family, his abandonment, her loneliness and pain. She forgave him the fact that in the end, he loved only himself.

Till death do us part

Someone from among the Wycoco siblings would question her presence at the hospital where Wykes lay comatose; after all, she had been gone for years. But she kept her peace. "It was my duty as his wife to bring him back to his Creator. I was fulfilling what my marriage vows required of me—till death do us part. "

During the wake, we old friends would be kept busy, looking from left to right to catch a sight of that woman or this mistress. Everyone put on their glasses to better scrutinize the other women. Oh, Wykes! He was the ultimate Filipino macho man. Around his coffin, there were blown-up photos of Wykes in a tuxedo, singing; Wykes in uniform, Wykes in a business suit. There were people from all walks of life lining up around his coffin; there were eulogies and praises for the way he cared for people.

Luci loved him, and felt she did not have that love returned. "Strangers would come up to me, relating how he had done this or that for them. But for us, his family, he was inaccessible; whatever he gave to the children had to be begged or cajoled out of him. He was kind to everyone, except me," she would say, flinching.

She continued to love him anyway, though he did not give her much hope. "He left me three times, and after the third, I decided it was time to go, too." she recalls. But she never saw herself as a victim. "I always had a strong sense of self. I knew I was there because I had chosen to love him."

She lived most of the time in London, where she would finally heal herself. "The first three years were awful. Then, suddenly, I just stopped thinking of him. In 2001, I wanted to settle everything, but he held back. Instead, I began to settle with myself, into myself."

It was on one of those trips, when feeling depressed and alone, that she wandered into St. James church in the heart of London. "As I knelt there, I felt like a speck in the vastness of the universe. My problems were nothing; I felt so humble in the presence of the Infinite."

Shattered dream

Soon she would find a way to help the refugees, the homeless and the poor who huddled in the winter chill, bringing them food, drink, warmth and companionship. "We would do the rounds of the coffee shops and restaurants, where they would have the unsold food ready for pick-up. We'd heat up the coffee and soup, and gather them all in the park. There would be Croats and Serbs, all nationalities, but never Pinoys. Pinoys never beg."

Luci would find herself amidst all the hurt. "All I ever wanted was a simple life, for us to grow old together," she recalls. She had, however, surrendered to the shattering of that dream a long time ago. She became part of the Tezei group, young people who were seeking new answers for spirituality in fast-changing modern times.

Voltaire the communicator sums up Wykes' legacy to his children succinctly. "You won't miss my Dad. My sister, Pat has his intelligence; my brother Miko, his heart; Vladimir, his vanity and myself, his charm and confidence," he says with a grin.

Today, barely two months after Wykes' passing, Luci is strengthening her hold on her family, helping her children establish themselves, enjoying her grandchildren and friends. London has been put on hold for the time being, but it beckons, because there, she is her "best self."

She is thinking of taking a counseling course at a local university. After her 27-year journey with this man who was her husband, Luci has been distilled and transformed. Because of the challenges of loving him, she has learned to find her God, and herself.

Family ties: The family in 1996—(seated) Vlad, Pat, Luci, Wykes, (standing) Voltaire and Miko

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Music Makers

by Eric S. Caruncho

photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

PDI PHOTO

He's doing reggae his way— and hitting gold after 12 years

YOUR average noontime show-stampeding goon wouldn't know Bob Marley from Bob Magoo, and probably thinks of Jamaica as the place where *empanadas* come from, but thanks to the surprising crossover success of Brownman Revival's cover of the Eraserheads' old hit "*Maling Akala*," he at least knows what reggae sounds like.

It took long enough.

Brownman Revival appeared on the mass-market radar only last year, with the release of their first official album "Steady *Lang*" on the newly merged Sony-BMG label, and the subsequent radio airplay of "*Maling Akala*," as well as the band's similar covers of certified-polyester OPM hits from the '70s such as the Rainmakers' "*Binibini*" and VST's "*Ikaw Lang Ang Aking Mahal*."

Actually the band has been plugging away at their own brand of pop-reggae for nearly 12 years—the equivalent of several lifetimes in the indie-rock trenches. Predictably, their newly minted success ("Steady *Lang*" is predicted to go gold within the next couple of months), while winning them a larger audience than they've ever had before, has earned them the ire of reggae purists, who accuse them of abandoning reggae's roots as a kind of Third World protest music born in the slums of Kingston.

"It's not really an issue for us," says Dino Concepcion, Brownman Revival's frontman, for whom "mainstream" isn't necessarily a dirty word.

"The reason we went mainstream is, to put it simply, to capture a broader audience. We wanted to bring reggae to a bigger audience. We wanted reggae that would be suitable to the Philippines, with a pop sensibility and which you could dance to. We don't have a problem with love songs—after all, Bob Marley sang love songs, too. We're not against singing songs of protest or of social relevance. We just choose to celebrate life and love, the positive side of what's happening."

Deceiving looks

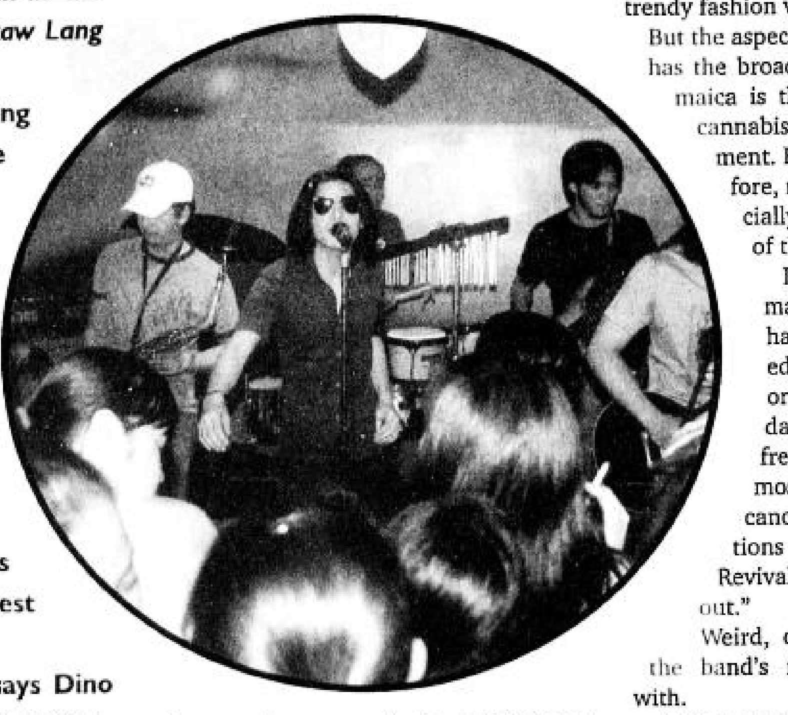
With his long stringy hair, slight frame and T-shirt, Concepcion looks like your average indie rock kid. But looks can be deceiving.

For one thing, he's in the middle of finishing his masters' degree in sociology at the Ateneo de Manila University (where he also earned his undergraduate diploma in Interdisciplinary Studies).

For another, at 30, he also qualifies as a veteran of the music scene, having been performing for almost as long as the average indie rock kid has been alive.

So what if they're mainstream and *pogi?* It's not selling out, but singing songs of life and love that Dino Concepcion, frontman of Pinoy reggae band Brownman Revival, has poured his heart into

Veteran: For Concepcion. "mainstream" - is not a dirty word



I have this pet theory that people have a special affinity for the music of the era they were born in. Concepcion would seem to lend credence to that theory; he was born in 1976—more or less around the same time reggae went international with the global success of Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Reggae, Jamaica's best-known export (next to sugar, rum and, ahem, ganja), is itself a hybrid—cobbled together from various strains: American rhythm and blues, West Indian calypso and earlier African musical forms brought over by the slaves to the former island colony.

Reggae's uniqueness lies in the way it turns pop conventions on their heads: the rhythmic accent is placed not on, but after, the beat—the familiar chunka-chunka guitar that is reggae's signature sound. The roles of the instrumentalists are also reversed: In reggae it's the bass that carries the melody and the drums that provide the accents while the guitar holds down the beat.

Thanks to its origins in Kingston's impoverished ghettos, reggae is also strongly rooted in Rastafarianism, Jamaica's homegrown religion, which holds Africa as the black man's promised land, "Zion," and everywhere else as "Babylon." At its deepest, reggae is the expression of a subjugated people's yearning to be free, hence its appeal to the politically correct, collegiate/NGO crowd.

Somewhat more puzzling is the Rasta belief in the divinity of the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie, and its prohibition of cutting hair. Hence the familiar matted "dreadlocks" worn as a badge by true Rastas—and painstakingly teased and beeswaxed by trendy fashion victims.

But the aspect of Rastafarianism that has the broadest appeal outside Jamaica is the fact that it regards cannabis as a religious sacrament. For many people, therefore, reggae goes down especially well after a few tokes of the kind herb.

In any case, while in Jamaica itself "roots" reggae has largely been supplanted by faster, more dance-oriented variants like dancehall, local reggae freaks still adhere for the most part to the Marley canon, hence the accusations leveled at Brownman Revival for, somehow, "selling out."

Weird, considering that it was the band's raison d'etre to begin with.

At the instigation of his older brother Dennis, Brownman's drummer, Concepcion formed Indio I, their first reggae band, in 1993, when he was a freshman.

Usual band thing

Indio I did the usual band thing, playing at school events until they were good enough to land a club gig, at the then-Mecca for the local music scene, Club Dredd.

The following year, however, the brothers broke away to form Brownman Revival.

"We decided to form another reggae band because of musical differences," he explains. "Indio I wanted to pursue something more roots, rock-oriented. But we idolized bands like UB40 and Big Mountain. Their approach to reggae had a pop sensibility. We thought that was cool, because if you're talking about the Philippines, our tastes run to rock and pop, and we wanted something closer to the Pinoy palate."

In the beginning, Dino was the guitarist, until their vocalist at the time got chicken pox and quit. He was drafted to pinch hit as the singer, which turned out to be a better fit, and he's been fronting the band ever since.

The band's current lineup, apart from the brothers Concepcion, consists of Jao Larion on bass, Alphy Desaville on guitars, Ken Gonzales on keyboards, Jan Sundiang on percussion, Jojo Antenero on saxophone, Ambet Abundo on trumpet and Jayson Cuevas on trombone.

Initially, the band concentrated on cover versions of songs by Big Mountain, UB40 and Maxi Priest, definitely from the poppier side of the spectrum.

"What we liked about Big Mountain was the fact that apart from being more pop, they weren't hardline reggae, *mas madaling sakyan*, plus they had a Latin influence that we thought Filipinos could relate to because of the Latin influence on our own music," he recalls.

"First of all, we're not Jamaican. Second, we're not Rastafarian. Why ape something that isn't really your culture? You don't need dreadlocks or weed to enjoy reggae. You're defeating the purpose of reggae, which is supposed to be one love—universal—if you confine it to those images."

'Pogi' rock

Among the brickbats leveled at the band were "showband" and "*pogi* rock"—fighting words in the insular indie rock scene.

"In the first place, we never claimed to be roots or to be Rastas," he says. "Our only answer to these hecklers is to keep tongue in cheek."

But while Brownman Revival might have alienated the purists, they soon attracted a bigger audience with their pop-savvy covers.

"The inherent beauty of reggae is that you can revive different songs and it will always be different, it will always be fresh," says Concepcion.

Covering the Eraserheads was a no-brainer.

"We've been covering '*Maling Akala*' since 2001," he says. "The song itself was an attempt by the Eraserheads to come up with a reggae song. We just fine tuned it."

Apart from the band's long-standing admiration for the E'heads, they also go way back. Brownman Revival opened for the E'heads in 1999, at a fondly-remembered 70s Bistro gig. Their current manager, Jotay, also used to produce the E'heads concerts.

The major labels soon started sniffing around the band. Brownman had been playing original songs since 1995. BMG's Vic Valenciano (who also shep-

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Artwatch

by Elizabeth Lolarga
photographs by Ryan Lim

Still playing with toys, but it's all in the name of serious art

Young Filipino-Chinese artist Clairelyn Uy may have picked the most delightful of subjects, but she presents them in a way that's bound to get the viewer thinking

HILE setting up the interview and possible photo shoot with Filipino-Chinese painter Clairelynn Uy, 31, she suggests certain galleries at the Artwalk at SM Megamall as location, but warns that if she's not allowed to use their walls, "let's do it at the comfort room or parking lot. It's much better, and it's really me!"

It is typical of Uy to crack wry jokes as counterpoint to the subjects of her paintings—toys galore. She remembers being craft-oriented even as a child, making hair accessories or turning Yakult bottles into puppets.

Growing up with her *amah* (grandmother), Ngo Kim Lian, after her parents split up, Uy had a lot of space for her mess. On her second year in high school, she willingly accepted the task of making 120 Uncle Sam hats, measuring and cutting in a frenzy with just a few assistants. It was her chance to apply her two favorite subjects, math and art. "Both are related," she said. "Layouting requires calculation and proportion. In painting, when you mix your colors, you must know how much percentage of white to use so a color doesn't die. That's why, in my opinion, *walang bobo na* artist (no artist is stupid)." During class plays Uy could be counted on to handle the lights, props and sound effects.

When she told her *amah* she wanted to pursue fine arts, majoring in advertising, at the Philippine Women's University, the old woman protested, saying, "You will get nowhere with that."

But Uy was persistent and proved to be such a diligent student that, when she was burning the proverbial midnight oil to finish her plates, her grandmother would serve her hot chocolate and a sandwich. Sometimes the chocolate would spill on the work, and Uy would chide her grandma, then start all over again.

Spoiled and lucky

She and her sister Ann Karyn, who took up the more pragmatic course of occupational therapy, were spoiled by their paternal *amah*, and consider themselves lucky because of this. Although Uy was trained in advertising, she never sought a job in that field. She plunged into painting right away. Her *amah* did not protest that her grandchild wanted to be a fulltime painter and did not seek an office job. The first two feet-by-three feet painting of a still life (jars piled one on top of the other) that Uy did as a student was sold for P6,000 cash in 1992. The dutiful granddaughter immediately bought P2,000 worth of groceries for her *amah* who then returned the money, saying her granddaughter had earned it.

In college Uy went around with a group that included Joseph Lofranco, a painting major from an earlier batch. She didn't consider his pursuit of her seriously. She considered themselves gangmates, but the difference was he would call her up all the time and express his concern for her paintings. "*Inaasinta na pala ako* (He was zeroing in on me)," she recalls.

Lofranco, who is the realist Uy's visual opposite because he paints abstracts, became her husband in February 2004. "*Malandi kasi ako* (I'm flirtatious)," she says. What bound them were constant companionship, "being super friends," her need to take care of someone and his need to be taken care of. "We're each other's hero," Uy adds.

They share a studio in their home in Dasmariñas, Cavite. She used to have a studio of her own with a small window, but she developed a pulmonary problem from the oil paint fumes. She did not want that to happen again ("antibiotics are expensive") so she shares space with Lofranco who, she claims, sometimes interferes in her work, telling her if the subject lacks a shadow or egging her, "*Mas pagandahin mo* (Make it more beautiful)."

Her preferred still life subjects, toys, give her a light feeling. "I get sad when I do a human figure. I have a hard time making a person pose. I can't stylize a human subject."

Her "playfulness" with her subjects began with a painting of a tiny woman pinned to a sandwich. Then she thought of toys because they're easier to pose, and she can play around with them. What's more, "*mas masaya, mas makulay ang laruan at kendi* (toys and candies are happy-looking and colorful)."

She once used the head of Barbie with a bottle for a body. She also pickled Barbie. These are products of stories or experiences of other people and her own imagination. She is thankful that her *amah* kept all her toys, even the dress she wore as a flower girl, because all these find their way to the canvas. Uy still loves to play make-believe. "I still talk to my image in the mirror, imagining I'm being interviewed by Oprah Winfrey."

Playing with bubbles

She wants to enjoy whatever she is doing, even if it's just washing dishes. She ends up playing with bubbles. By observing the maids, her aunts and *amah*, she learned how to cook viands and desserts. Asked what dish she has mastered, she answers, "*Adobo* forever," explaining that it is the easiest to make for her family (including son Milo) while she is busy painting.

Although she does not join art contests regularly, during the few times she does, she does well. She became a Shell Art finalist in 1992, a second place winner in Diwa ng Sining in 1996 and a Philip Morris finalist in 2003. For the last competition, her entry showed toys depicting various sins like Americans gunning down Indians, Americans stabbing each other, a teddy bear sniffing rugby, Ken (Barbie's partner) cross-dressing. The ironic title of the work is "But, Boss, We're Just Playing."

So although her toys may be perceived as a light subject, the way Uy manipulates them makes viewers think: What exactly are they doing? It all depends on the eye of the beholder.

She's had seven solo shows under her belt, the latest at the Nineveh Art Space in Santa Cruz, Laguna. Her last paintings were of variations on a teddy bear. In a weird explanation, Uy said she wants the viewer's initial reaction to be "*Ang ganda* (How beautiful)," then realization sets in and he/she says, "*Ay hindi, pangit pala* (Oh no, it's actually ugly)."

Her good friend, fellow artist Noel Soler Cuizon, notes that Uy copycats have sprung up. "There are some painters who are inserting toys on their canvases," he reports, but he is not alarmed because he is confident nobody can do the "melodramatic metaphors" Uy is capable of.

The work, not the artist

Although she counts Cuizon, Karen Flores, Alfred Esquillo, Lawrence Borsoto, Manny Garibay and members of the Cavite-based Anting-anting group as her pals, she does not look at the name when appreciating an artwork. This is why she claims that there is no one artistic influence on her. She says, "Favorite artist? I don't have one, local or foreign. I tend to look more at the works, not the artist. It can be many works by one artist but not all, or it can be just one work. I don't look at the name. I look at the art. Is that bad?"

She observes that artists have their own circles and may compete with one another, "but overall we are willing to help each other and work together."

Flores said the influence of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts may have something to do with this. There is more tolerance, and there is no dominant camp of artists that calls the shots. Uy agreed on the camaraderie of artists, saying, "*Dati,* career *mo lang* (In the past, you're just concerned with your own career). Today, let's have a show, *sama-sama tayo* (let's do it together)."

She says she is just beginning. "There are some things I haven't done with my subjects, like remove their eyes, pull out the cotton from the stuffed toys or even work with Lego."

Her only child Milo is aware of the rule that Mommy's toys are Mommy's toys and Milo's are Milo's. A container of action figures is stored in her former studio along with other containers for stuffed toys, Barbie dolls, clothes and accessories like swords and crowns. Some of the dolls came from cousins who had outgrown them. Uy says with glee, "*Ngayon ko lang nalalaro ang* Barbie (I've only played with Barbie now)." She takes shots with her digital camera of Barbie in various poses, then chooses what she will paint.

When she goes out to buy unique-looking toys, she thinks of it as part of her work, "so there's no limit on the budget."

The five-feet-one-inch tall painter's other weakness is shoes with heels at least two to three inches high. She owns 12 or more pairs of high heels and can fork out up to P4,000 for a pair of Italian stilettos. She also goes for local brands that sell for as low as P300 a pair, "best buy *na 'yan*." Which just goes to show that Clairelyn Uy may like playing with toys, but her artist's sensibility is all grown up. ◆

He's doing

...from page 4

herded the E'heads during their stint with the label) proposed an album of reggae cover versions of OPM and English language hits from the past. Eventually, they reached a compromise and the result was "Steady *Lang*, released last year, which had eight original songs and four covers. Originally, a cover of the Apo's "*Yakap sa Dilim*" was slated for inclusion, but disputes over royalties kept it off the final track list.

Significantly, Brownman Revival was the first band signed by the label after its merger with Sony, which seems to augur well for the future of Pinoy reggae, if there is such a thing.

"We'd like to think that this is what we're doing—we're trying to define what Pinoy reggae is," says Concepcion. "What we want to happen is for reggae music itself to be relevant to us as Pinoys. With all the similarities—Third World origins, dance-oriented, the culture of optimism in the face of hardships—that's what we want to revive. We're not saying that you should forget your problems or do nothing, but you should also look at the bright side of things."

Actually, Concepcion might be on to something. Local interest in reggae has waxed and waned over the past 10 years. In Manila it remains a somewhat marginal subculture, with a handful of bands such as Peace Pipe, Reggae Mistress and the venerable Tropical Depression congregating around Xaymaca, a reggae bar on Timog Ave. In Cebu, however, reggae has managed to generate a solid community, with annual reggae music festivals and regular venues.

I ask Concepcion what he thinks of the inclusion of Budoy, from the Cebuano reggae band Jr. Kilat, in the "Celebrity Big Brother" pilot. He seems to think it could go either way.

"It might give reggae artists more access," he speculates. "Negatively, it might trivialize reggae as a novelty, as has happened before with Blakdyak. In some ways, it ended up being marginalized even more. But at the risk of being branded a sell out, the only way you can reach the common people is through popular culture. *Ano ba ang* popular culture *natin?*"

Whatever happens, though, doesn't seem to worry Concepcion.

"I just play for people who want to hear reggae," he says. "The title of our album says it all: steady *lang kami dito*. We've been doing our thing for the past 12 years—through all the fads, from rap to pogi rock to alternative—and we'll keep doing it for the next 12 years." ◆

by Cora Llamas
photographs by Rodel Rotoni

Theater may be in his blood, but it was **fatherhood** that made him **take theater seriously** (but not himself)

Acting is in Lorenz Martinez's genes, his parents being eminent names on Philippine stage. But it took his daughter's needs for this laid-back guy to try his acting chops abroad and, having succeeded, to find his way back home

HE certainly breaks the stereotype as far as character actors onstage are concerned. Lorenz Martinez is simply one cool laid-back guy who refuses to agonize over the angst-filled roles he's playing. Shy, funny quips take the place of long intellectual discussions.

He also doesn't exhibit the usual scars of kids traumatized by their parents' separation. It might be because the 31-year-old actor has been warmly adopted by the theater family.

As Dodo Lim, formerly of Repertory Philippines and now founding member of Actor's Actors Inc. (AAI), puts it, "*Kinakarga lang namin iyang si* Lorenz (We used to carry him around as a kid)."

"We" might as well refer to the who's who of modern Philippine theater today, whom Lorenz prefers to address with the usual moniker of "Tito" and "Tita," such as the late Zeneida Amador, Baby Barredo, Audie Gemora, and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, among others.

But then again, that wouldn't be unusual considering the pedigree of his parents, who just happen to be Leo Martinez, a familiar face in sitcoms and teleseryes, and Enchang Kaimo, a Rep alumnus who later started the Christian theater group Trumpets along with several colleague.

A sample of the Kaimo humor shows when Lorenz volunteers, "My mom says that she was so busy praying for my brother Lance not to become an actor that she forgot to pray for me. That's why I'm an actor now."

Acting bug

Older brother Lance, who eventually went into the corporate world, was bitten by the acting bug in childhood. The thought of going into performing, however, didn't enter Lorenz's mind as a boy living with his brother among his dad's relatives. Singing was something he did mainly in the bathroom and for school events, he reveals. What finally pushed him into what became a lifetime calling were his domestic responsibilities as a young father.

"I started working when I had a daughter," says Lorenz. "My dad asked me to join the theater so I could earn money. I was 18 then. Maxine is 11 now and stays with her mom."

His father's phone call to Amador bagged Lorenz a chance to audition for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." Call it a stroke of luck, but one of the brothers who had already been cast quit the show. Lorenz got the part after singing Gary Valenciano's "Messiah" in the middle of the stage while the crew was busy putting up the set.

The supporting role led to juicier parts like Judas Iscariot in "Jesus Christ, Superstar." And while there were no grand visions nor dramatic awakenings, acting day-in and day-out convinced Lorenz of what he really wanted to do. He soon lost interest in school and, to the dismay of his dad, dropped out of Kostka College.

"For the life of me, I can't remember what I took up," he shrugs at the memory. "Maybe it's Mass Communication, which I took up to please my Dad. My mom said it was my form of rebellion, but well, I just didn't really like it."

That spurt of teenage rebellion was probably the only visible reaction that the young Lorenz would have to his parents' breakup. Lance and Lorenz would spend the weekends with their mom and weekdays with their dad. In some cases, they'd stay with relatives from either side.

Lorenz still remains pretty close to both parents and their respective families; he has a half-brother on Enchang's side and two half-sisters and another half-brother on Leo's.

Sense of family

It was that same sense of family that had Lorenz working out of the country, and which later compelled him to return.

Paternal responsibilities prompted an audition for "Miss Saigon," which landed him a spot as an ensemble member and an understudy role for the Engineer in the Holland production from 1996 to 1999. He'd do eight shows a week in Dutch ("I can speak and understand it, but not converse in it"), then spent his spare time on barbecue cook-outs with fellow Pinoy actors he shared a building with. When they really wanted to let loose, they'd take the two-hour drive to Germany, rent a hostel near one of those sparkling clean rivers, and spend the rest of the next day fishing.

Then there were the shopping sprees in Belgium, Paris, Germany and London, where he'd also catch the latest West End shows.

The financial rewards were complemented by the audience's appreciation. "We didn't have a show where we didn't have a standing ovation," Lorenz says. Theater buffs would line up backstage to get his autograph when he played the Engineer.

Surrounded by that blessed life, it was not surprising that 10 of the 12 Filipino actors who had signed up for "Saigon" Holland finished their contract and went on to do other productions like "Grease" and "Hair" in Amsterdam. Lorenz was one of only two who returned home, primarily because of his daughter.

"I love the Philippines," he says simply. "I like it here. The night life is something else. Plus there's my family."

Readjustment, though, wasn't quite as easy. Feeling "uprooted" and "lost," he retired from acting for the next couple of years, and hit the road and all the familiar jaunt spots he had missed. "*Labas lang ako nang labas,* enjoy *ako nang* enjoy (I had night outs and just enjoyed myself)."

Fortunately, he admits with a sheepish grin, his savings from "Saigon" afforded him the luxury. "*Naubos ko sa gimik* (I spent it all on good times)."

Laugh a lot

Fortunately, he adds, his fiancée Sheila Valderrama helps rein him in. The two Rep stalwarts have been a couple for almost four years now. "She takes care of me and makes me more responsible," Lorenz gushes. "It's natural for her, because she's the eldest in their family and manages the household. She'd push me to do things that I have to do ASAP." He cracks a grin, "I don't know why she's with me—I think, it's because of my love, and I make her laugh a lot."

His semi-retirement over, Lorenz is back in the saddle as one of the *balimbing* (turncoat) politicians in AAI's upcoming revival of "Enemy of the People." Director Bart Guingona transplants the Henrik Ibsen classic of the man who stands against the majority in Northern Luzon. Lorenz' character supports the heroic doctor at first, then pulls back when the tide turns against him.

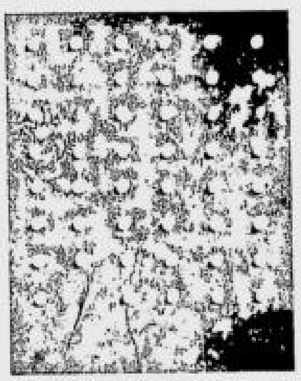
No productions are lined up yet after "Enemy" finishes its two-week run, says the easygoing actor. His most immediate plan is to visit Valderrama in Hong Kong Disneyland where she's performing. Although he's not keen on long-term stints like "Saigon," he's open to the idea of working with the Mouse. With Hong Kong only a couple of hours away, he can easily visit his little girl any time.

He says it matter-of-factly, almost nonchalantly. That sense of ease, of being comfortable in his own skin, is so rare these days that it washes over you like a fresh breeze. It certainly makes the whole theatrical business of acting, which many of its artists would acknowledge as an economic struggle these days, lighter and easier. ◼

This Week

Art

One Hundred Forty Eggs. An exhibit presented by Galleria Duemila presents the work of artist Lina Llaguno Ciani. The exhibit dwells on the nurturing side of the Egg, its pure innocence and delicacy that does not threaten, but delights and stimulates the mind with its ancient curvilinear geometry. Exhibit opens on March 11. Galleria Duemila is located at 210 Loring St., Pasay City, Manila. For inquiries, call 833-9815 or 831-9990.



Lina Llaguna-Ciani's "Forty Eight Minus One" on exhibit at Galleria Duemila

Hiraya Gallery presents **The Mystical Planet of Modesto**, an exhibit featuring the Impressionistic works of Fernando Modesto. Modesto's works shows the harmonious existence of natural forces. Exhibit is open for viewing until March 15. Hiraya Gallery is located at 530 United Nations, Ermita, Manila. For inquiries, call 523-3331, e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph or visit www.hiraya.com.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents **Banguet**, the third solo exhibition of cross disciplinary artist Mideo Cruz. Banguet features around 140 small abstract works rendered in acrylic and mixed media on paper. The series is the artist's own attempt to visually articulate his personal and political sentiments on the experience of material disenfranchisement and dislocation. Exhibit runs until March 5. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 832-3702.

Naked Series, an exhbit by Fernando Escora hosted by Alliance Française de Manille is open for viewing until Feb. 24 at the Alliance Total Gallery. The subject of his artwork varies from nude, lovers and subtle social commentary. Alliance Total Gallery is located at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. For inquiries, call 895-7441 or 895-7585.

The music and comedy of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr live in "The Rat Pack Live" at the Araneta Coliseum

Music

The legacy of the Kings of Cool lives on as **The Rat Pack Live (Direct from Las Vegas)** happens on March 25 at the Araneta Coliseum. Relive the coolness, chemistry and comedy of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. The show recaptures the celebrated trio through the most superb performers accompanied by a live band orchestra under the direction of Scott Bennett. For inquiries, call 374-2222 or 374-9999.

Carnaval Brasileiro 2005 is the official launch of what is to become an annual "Carnaval" (pronounced karnaVAO) in the Philippines organized by Escola de Samba de Manila and presented by Cafe Havana (LJC Restaurant Group). It will become part of a worldwide series of annual Carnaval celebrations (Carnaval in Brazil; Mardi Gras in New Orleans, etc.). Carnaval themes each year talk about varying topics such as love of nature, arts, faith, community spirit, and passion for samba. Carnaval Brasileiro will have a series of colorful and lively street parties and street parades at Greenbelt on Feb. 21 and at Remedios Circle in Malate on Feb. 28. Carnaval Brasileiro will feature the dancers and drummers of Escola de Samba de Manila, together with the lively samba music of Guarana, DJ Mon Maramba/DJ Ann Barcelona and the dances and acrobatic moves of the UP Pep Squad. For inquiries, call Eileen Sison at 0918-6343326.

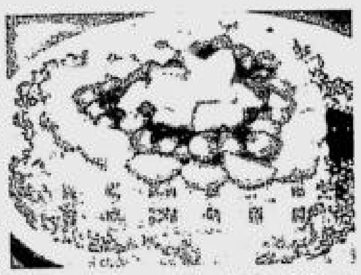
Jas Border. American Idol finalist Jasmine Trias and Southborder will have a concert on Feb. 24 at the Stratus Grand Center in Parañaque and on Feb. 25 at the Casino Filipino Mimosa. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

The **Philippine Male Chorale** will have a free concert at the Central Plaza Eastwood City Walk on Feb. 26 at 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Philippine Male Chorale was formed in 1978 with the world-renowned talent of Andrea Veneracion of the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers as their conductress/musical directress. The free concert is part of the month-long celebration of the National Arts Month. For details, contact the NCCA SubCommission on the Arts at 527-2209 locals 507 to 509, or the NCCA Public Affairs Office at 527-5529 locals 612 to 615, or visit the website www.ncca.gov.ph.

Onstage

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. A musical about the trials and tribulations of love in the modern world from meeting, to first dates, to courtship, to marriage, to parenting and even widowhood. The play will be staged on Feb. 24 to Feb. 26, March to March 5, and March 10 to March 11 at the Repertory Globe Theatre. For inquiries, call The Rep office at 887-0710 or Ticketworld at 891-999.

Remedios Aids Foundation presents the advance screening of **"Rent"** on March 9, 8 p.m. at Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas, Cinema 2. "Rent," the movie, tells the story of a group of Bohemians struggling to live and pay their rent in the gritty background of New York's East Village. "Measuring their lives in love" these starving artists strive for success and acceptance while enduring the obstacles of poverty, illness and the AIDS epidemic. Tickets are priced at P300. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Lucy or Joy at 524-092 or 452-4483.

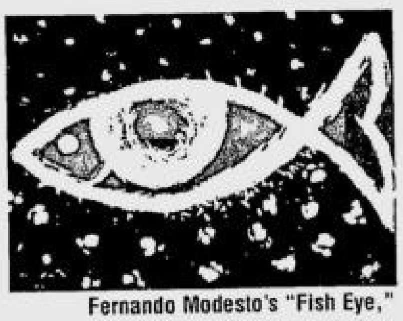


Manila Pavillion's Berries Aphrodisiac

Ballet Manila stages **Don Quixote** on Feb. 19 and on Feb. 24 to Feb. 26 at Star City, CCP Complex. Ballet Manila celebrates its 10th year anniversary and the 20th anniversary of prima ballerina and artistic director, Lisa Macuja Elizalde. For inquiries, call 400-0292, 404-3086, 525-1584.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and Bulacan's Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation present **"Bato sa Buhangin"** a pop zarzuela production staged to honor National Artist Joson Cuenco on Feb. 24 to Feb. 25 at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Sonny Cristobal at the CCP Outreach Office at 833-0267, 832-6674 and 0927-3889216.

De La Salle University-Manila and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde celebrate National Arts Month with **Sinag Sining: Culture and Arts for Social Transformation.** From Feb. 20 to Feb. 24 a theater festival will be staged at the DLSU-M William Shaw Theater. Featured plays are: "Crossroads 3;" "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan" by National Artist Rolando Tinio; "Ang Butihing Babae ng Timog" by Jose Dalisay; "Kapihan sa Loob ng Isang Dula" by Dr. Naohiko Umewaka; "No Exit" by Jean Paul Sartre; and "Starring Lea Salonda" by Niel De Mesa. "No Exit" is presented by Harlequin Theater Group while the other productions are presented by DLS-CSB's Dulaang Filipino. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call 526-7441 to 47 loc. 256 and 257.



Fernando Modesto's "Fish Eye," on exhibit at the Hiraya Gallery

UP Film Institute screenings for this month continue with **Eiga Sai** featured films. Films to be shown are Waterboys, Gomen, Mga Pusang Gala,First Love, Swimming Upstream, Pinoy/Blonde,Sex and Zen-The Untold Story, Sex and Zen 2-The Chinese Torture Chamber Story, Brain Smasher: A Love Story, The Pillow Book. Egai Sai runs until March 1. For inquiries, call the UP Film Institute at 981-8500 local 2669, 2670 or 920-6863.

Food

Manila Pavillion's cake for the month, **Berries Aphrodisiac**, a creamy shortcake flavored by assorted berries and topped with white chocolate and toasted almond coating, is available at The Patisserie until Feb. 28. For inquiries and orders, call 526-1212 loc. 2326.

The Richmonde Hotel offers new delightful iced tea concoctions, **Citrus Fruit Fusion Iced Tea and Iced Tea Punch.** Citrus Fruit Fusion is a mix of orange, lemon and lime essences while Iced Tea Punch is a spiced up tea with sweet distinctive flavors. For inquiries and reservations, call 638-7777 local 3401, 3732, 3408 and 3409.

Atbp

The Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Philippines invites all hairdressers and salon owners to join its **Silver Jubilee: Open Hairstyling and Makeup Competition** on Feb. 20, 8 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Discounted beauty and hair products will also be on sale during the event. For inquiries, contact Tessie Atienza at 731-4371 or 742-8188. You can also look for Nick Diaz or Emmie Mole at 895-1231 or 253-8521.

Old Manila Walks. Watch history brew down San Miguel as guide Ivan ManDy pounds the streets of this historic Manila district to delight in presidential gossip and architectural wonders on Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. Meeting place wil be at the San Sebastian Church courtyard. Tickets are priced at P750.00 inclusive of snacks. For details, log on to www.oldmanilawalks.com or text 0917-329-1622

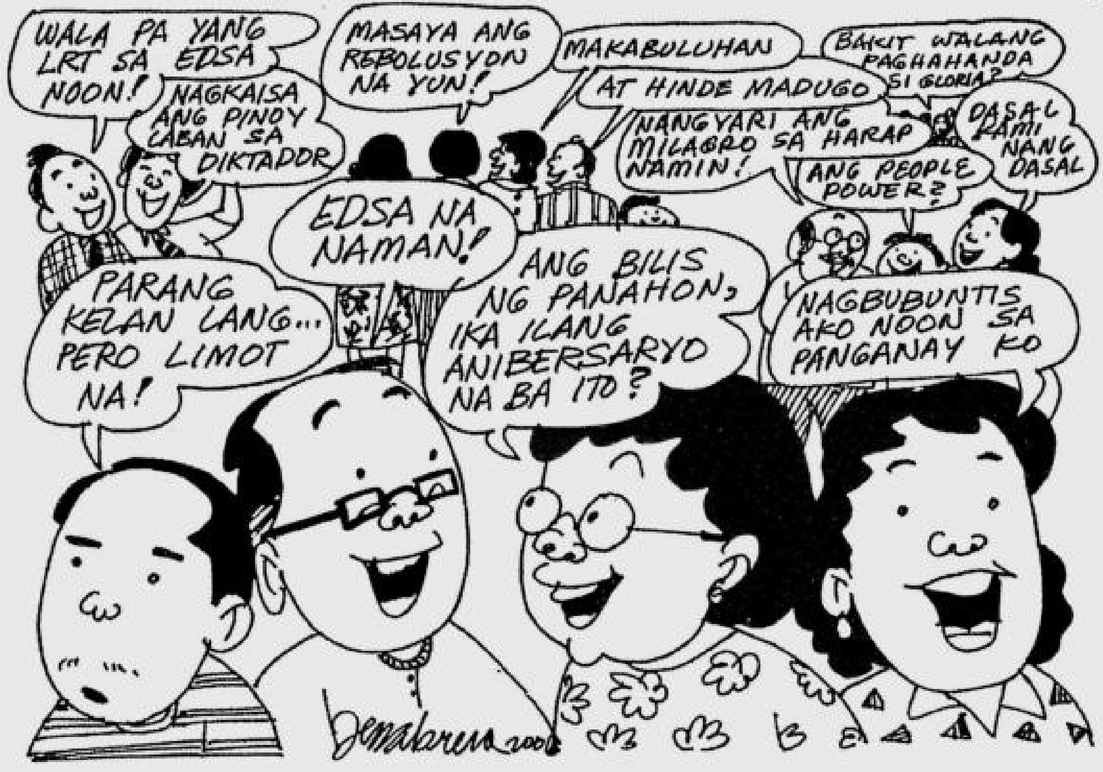
Positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle will conduct an **art workshop** for children aged 3 to 12 years old and for adults 13 years old and above. Participants will be introduced to the use of charcoal, watercolor, oil pastel and mixed media. Tagle will focus on positive subjects such as family unity, hard work, love of God and care for the environment. For inquiries, call 811-2432 or 0927-552-2288.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

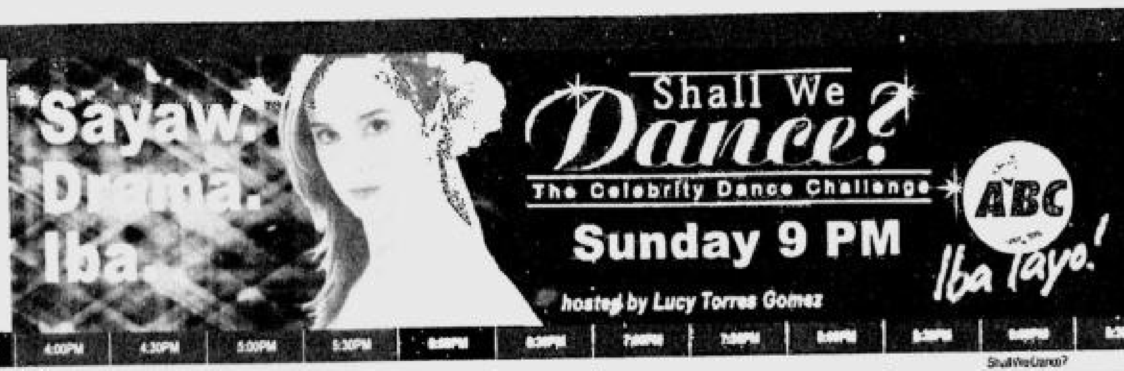
by Jess Abrera

Edsa Anniversary


WALA PA YANG LRT SA EDSA NOON!
NAGKAISA ANG PINOY LABAN SA DIKTADOR
MASAYA ANG REBOLUSYON NA YUN!
MAKABULUHAN
AT HINDE MADUGO
BAKIT WALANG PAGHAHANDA SI GLORIA?
NANGYARI ANG MILAGRO SA HARAP NAMIN!
DASAL KAMI NANG DASAL
ANG PEOPLE POWER?
EDSA NA NAMAN!
PARANG KELAN LANG... PERO LIMOT NA!
ANG BILIS NG PANAHON, IKA ILANG ANIBERSARYO NA BA ITO?
NAGBUBUNTIS AKO NOON SA PANGANAY KO

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, February 19, 2006



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2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	[illegible]	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		One Night With Rod Stewart			
ABS-CBN2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN		Charlie's Angels				E Buzz	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season 4)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	World's Deadliest Swarms		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: NY (Season 1)		CSI: Miami (Season 3)	
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	X-Men Evolution	Teen Titans	Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited		The Batman	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Xiaolin Showdown	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Harvey Birdman (11:45PM)
Cinema One				Pa-Siyam				My First Romance				Badjao				[illegible]			
Cinemax		Locusts (3:15 PM)			Keeper Of The City (4:45 PM)				Sleepers					Subzero			Tears Of The Sun		
CNN	International Correspondent/ Quest	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News/Quest	Diplomatic License	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller/ Inside The Middle East	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart Global Edition
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Pharaoh's Revenge		Quest For The Lost Pharaoh		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz On Maggie	Mr Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Videos	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Gymnastics Fig World Cup 05/06					Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	World Snooker Tour Grand Prix				SportsCenter Asia		World Pool Masters '01		World Pool Masters '01		Moscow Cup '01	
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 2		Friends 10	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip Tuck (Back 2 Back Episodes)			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: [illegible]	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				[illegible]		Starstruck 3		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	Fungus The Bogeyman			Fungus The Bogeyman (5:15 PM)				Doc Martin		Child Of Our Time/McBride: It's Murder, Madam			While I Was Gone (10:35PM)				
HBO	Wimbledon (2:45 PM)				The American President				New York Minute			The Big Preview Munich	Lethal Weapon 2				The Devil's Advocate		
IBC13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang [illegible]	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Family Guy	Dr Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		13 Conversations About One Thing				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	Handpicked: Mick Foley	Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	Videography	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	StarMYX	MYX LDG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders				Built For The Kill		Catastrophe		Seismic Seconds	Rough Trades	Megastructures		Best Of The Week		No Borders			
NBN				Concert at the Park		Paco Park Presents		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List		The Working President	Business & Leisure		Unlimited Chords
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	ChalkZone	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tunay Na Kaibigan, Walang Iwanan				Juan N' Ted - Wanted				Bagets 2				Jaya The Other Woman				Fight Night 3
Qtv		Joan Of Arcadia		The Prince Of Tennis		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports		[illegible] All Star Practices & Media Availability					GWS 06-2006	GWS 07-2006	NBA Jam	Boxing Viloria vs Aguirre						2006 NBA All-Star Saturday			
Sports Plus			ACC Basketball Duke vs Wake Forest				Slipstream	Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				World's Greatest Auto Shows		Raceworld		[illegible]		Nissan Open Day 3	
Star Movies		Home Alone 3 (3:15 PM)				Vertical Limit (4:55 PM)				Around The World In Eighty Days				Million Dollar Baby				Wrong Turn (11:15PM)	
Star World		Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle	The Humans At No 42	Oprah Prime Time		Koffee With Karan		Little Britain	The Office	Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Nightlog		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		Buffy, The Vampire Slayer

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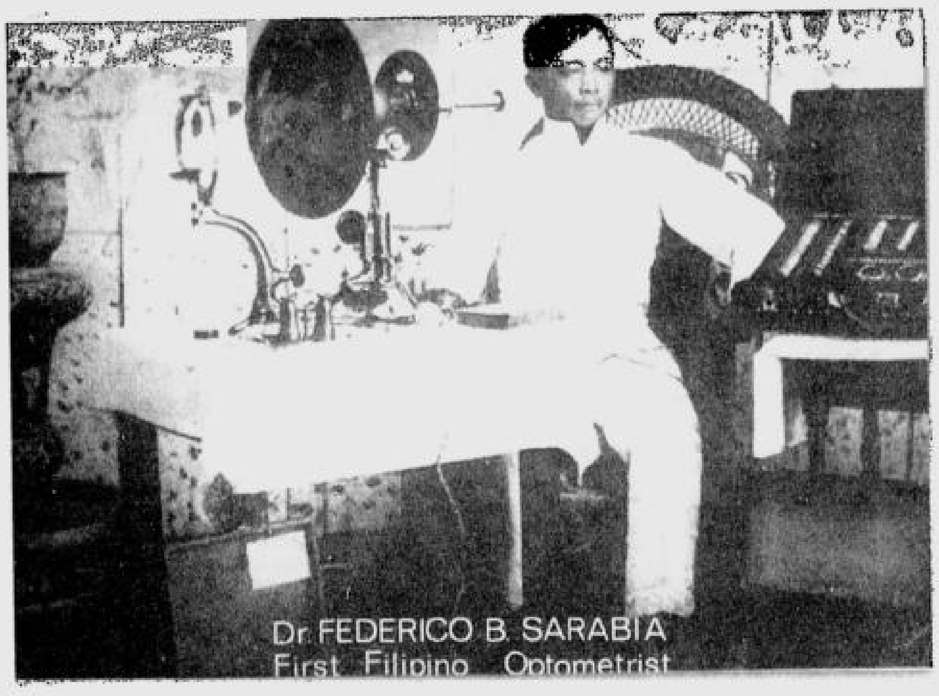
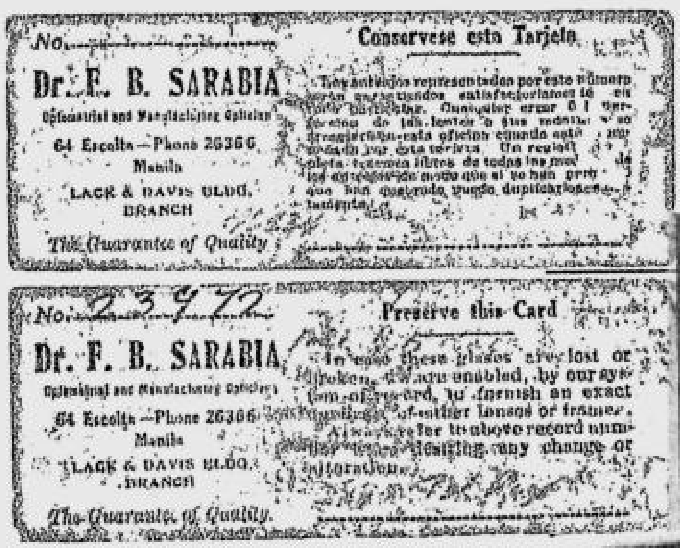
A Name Synonymous with Vision

SARABIA OPTICAL
100 YEARS OF SERVICE



The heritage of Dr. Sarabia as a figure in the Optometric field goes down to his descendants. Dr. Sarabia had three sons who were optometrist, one ophthalmologist, one physician and one opthalmic dispensing technician. In the 3rd generation, there are three ophthalmologist grandchildren, and 18 optometrists. Two grandchildren are optometrists as well. **Left photo:** Dr. Federico B. Sarabia, the first Filipino Optometrist. **Right photo:** (seated L-R) Dr. Vivian Sarabia, Dr. Francisco Sarabia, and Dr. Freddi Sarabia. (standing L-R) Dr. Sandra S. Gomez, Dr. Antonella S. Sarabia, Dr. Christine Sarabia-Heras, Dr. Melinda S. Morales, Dr. Corita L. Sarabia, and Sylvia Sarabia (undergraduate).

> ***"The patriarch of the institution that is SARABIA is Dr. Federico B. Sarabia (1886-1954). He was the first Filipino optometrist and founder of the Sarabia Optical Clinic chain. Sarabia has become the standard to follow in eyecare since the early days of the antiparras, gafas, or anteojos to today's slim wire-rimmed spectacles, perforated titanium frames with lavender highlights, traditional frames with tinted lenses and the like. Indeed, the Sarabia name has been synonymous with vision for a hundred years."***



No.

Conservese esta Tarjeta

Dr. F. B. SARABIA
Optometrist and Manufacturing Optician
64 Escolta—Phone 26366
Manila
LACK & DAVIS BLDG.
BRANCH

The Guarantee of Quality

No. 23472

Preserve this Card

Dr. F. B. SARABIA
Optometrist and Manufacturing Optician
64 Escolta—Phone 26366
Manila
LACK & DAVIS BLDG.
BRANCH

In case these glasses are lost or broken, we are enabled, by our system of record, to furnish an exact duplicate of either lenses or frames. Always refer to above record number when desiring any change or alteration.

The Guarantee of Quality

Dr. Federico B. Sarabia's calling card, circa 1907.

Dr. Federico B. Sarabia: The Man

In 1901, the 15-year-old sailed for the United States and found himself in the company of Filipino workers and *pensionados*, referring to the first batch of Philippine government scholars sent to America for graduate studies. The group encouraged the adventurous lad to finish his secondary education free as a working student at an agro-industrial school in California.

Dr. Federico B. Sarabia, at 21 years of age, returned to the Philippines in 1906 with a doctorate in Optometry from the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He established his first clinic in Iloilo City in 1906. Dr. Sarabia later moved his clinic to Manila's elite section, Escolta, in 1918 where he served a number of distinguished clients including President Manuel L. Quezon, and Saturnina Rizal (the sister of Jose Rizal), whose eyeglass case with "Sarabia Optical" markings, is exhibited in Fort Santiago. Dr. Federico B. Sarabia was a simple family man yet his entrepreneurial spirit and burning desire to help his fellowmen by improving their lives through eye care left a legacy nurtured by four generations of Sarabia optometrists and ophthalmologists for a century.

One Hundred Years of Excellence!

Not many brands and business entities can lay claim to the fact that they have been around for a hundred years! The Sarabia legacy thrives and lives on with 38 family-owned opticals located all over the Philippines. The Sarabia brand also figures prominently in the Iloilo City scene with the famous Sarabia Manor Hotel.

On February 22, 2006, the Sarabia Optical Centennial celebration formally begins with a launching event that will be held at the Ayala Museum with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. The family's relationship with the President's goes back a long way when her grandfather, Engineer Macaraeg and Dr. Federico Sarabia were friends and clubmates. The event will also unveil an exhibit that will showcase the family collection of memorabilia that chronicles the Sarabia's last 100 years.

The Sarabia Legacy

One of the highlights of the centennial celebration is a ceremonial lighting of 10 candles, each symbolizing a decade of the Sarabia Optical's past. Each decade's candle will be lit by someone whose forebears were key people in the Sarabia Optical of the particular decade. Chosen to light the symbolic candles, in addition to President Arroyo, are famed violinist Gil Lopez Kabayao whose grandfather was one of Dr. Sarabia's distinguished patients in his Iloilo clinic, Mrs. Gemma Cruz Araneta who will represent her ancestor Doña Trinidad Rizal whose eyeglass case exhibited at Fort Santiago is labeled "Anteojos de Dr. Federico Sarabia," Mrs. Nini Quezon Avancena who will represent her father Pres Manuel L. Quezon – both a friend and a client of the 1st Filipino optometrists, Senator Mar Roxas representing his grandfather President Manuel Roxas and Senator Gerry Roxas – both clients of Sarabia Optical, Mr. Peter Roa, representing his maternal grandfather Dr. Narciso Ner, Sr. who partnered with Dr. Sarabia in his Davao City Optical venture, Dr. Mariano Tanada – Chairman of the Board of Optometry (a position also once held by Dr. Federico B. Sarabia, his daughter Dr. Salvacion and son Dr. Federico Jr.), Mr. Eduardo Roces, representing his Father Don Chino Roces a close friend of Dr. Federico's son Manuel and a client of Manuel's optometrist daughter Wowi Sarmiento, Mrs. Florence Chan in behalf of her son Jose Mari Chan who, together with Federico's grandchild Dr. Miguel Sarabia, co-founded the Tony Chan Memorial Eye Center (West Visayas' first and only Opthalmic Laser Center), and Dr. Francis Sarabia-Ong, the youngest Sarabia optometrist.

OPTICAL
DEPARTMENT
Dr. F. B. SARABIA.
OPTOMETRIST

The Next 100 Years. The Sarabia brand will continue to be the benchmark for quality and excellence for the next 100 years and beyond.

Dr. Francis Sarabia-Ong (left), the fourth generation to follow in Dr. Federico Sarabia's footsteps.